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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Fishing Magazine in the United States!

JUNE 22nd, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 25 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

★ HUDSON CANYON ★

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	9:46	10:07	10:28	10:51	10:27	10:44	11:16	11:30	12:35	1:17	12:33	1:09	9:39	10:03	6/22
FRI	10:41	11:03	11:23	11:44	11:27	11:43	—	12:10	1:31	2:14	1:27	2:04	10:34	10:56	6/23
SAT	11:37	11:58	—	12:20	—	12:25	12:26	1:08	2:28	3:15	2:23	2:58	11:28	11:49	6/24
SUN	—	12:34	12:40	1:19	12:41	1:21	1:24	2:09	3:30	4:20	3:21	3:56	—	12:23	6/25
MON	12:53	1:33	1:38	2:21	1:37	2:16	2:27	3:09	4:42	5:30	4:20	4:56	12:46	1:21	6/26
TUE	1:48	2:27	2:38	3:24	2:32	3:12	3:31	4:12	5:59	6:36	5:22	5:55	1:44	2:20	6/27
WED	2:47	3:24	3:42	4:26	3:28	4:07	4:37	5:15	7:07	7:38	6:25	6:55	2:43	3:17	6/28
THUR	3:44	4:21	4:42	5:24	4:26	5:03	5:41	6:13	8:10	8:35	7:27	7:53	3:40	4:14	6/29

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide , add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 26
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

6/5	5:25	8:32
6/10	5:24	8:35
6/15	5:24	8:37
6/20	5:24	8:39
6/25	5:25	8:40
6/30	5:27	8:40

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr
6/5	6/13	6/20	6/27

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs.	6:20	**12:45**	7:00	**1:20**
Fri.	7:35	**1:55**	8:05	**2:20**
Sat.	8:35	**2:55**	9:05	**3:25**
Sun.	9:40	**3:55**	10:05	**4:25**
Mon.	10:40	**4:50**	11:00	**5:25**
Tues.	11:40	**5:45**	11:55	**6:10**
Wed.	—	**6:25**	12:25	**6:50**
Thurs.	12:35	**7:10**	1:05	**7:35**

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 25 JUNE 22, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
MARLIN TROLLING

About the Cover—

The faces only a mother could love. Members of the *High Hill Striper Club* show off some big flounders taken during the annual flounder contest in Peconic Bay. Not bad for a bunch of surf bums! *Photo by W.A. Muller*

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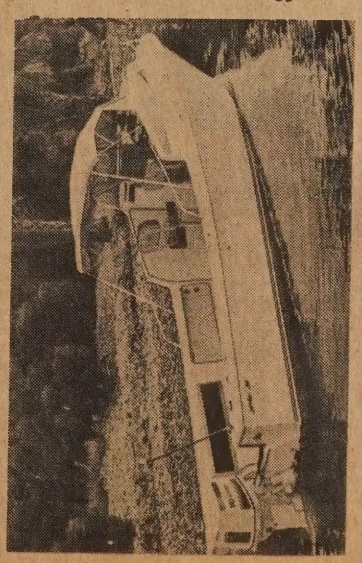

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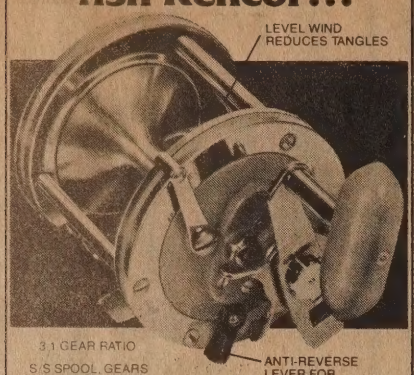

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FROM THE EDITOR'S HEAD

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UPDATE ON STATUS OF STRIPED BASS LEGISLATION IN THE STATE OF N.Y.

We recently learned that the S.O.S. proposed twenty-six inch striped bass minimum size limit successfully passed the New York State Assembly. This represents a milestone in S.O.S. (Save Our Stripers) attempts to have management legislation for the striped bass passed in the State of New York. We spoke to S.O.S. representative Bob Rance about these developments and he confirmed that Assembly Bill A11929 had gone to the Senate. One concern that some fishermen have is, that although Mr. Perry Duryea did not mount a fight against the twenty-six inch limit in the Assembly, that he may quietly pursue this goal in the Senate from behind the scene. The reason, of course, for the lack of a public posture by Mr. Duryea in the Assembly centers around his reluctance to be involved in a controversy now that he is actively pursuing nomination and election to the office of Governor of the State of New York.

Bob Rance also informed me that the Sanctuary Bill A7255-C was amended just prior to breaking up for the holiday recess. Thus, the new designation for the bill is A7255-D; S.O.S. was not able to learn about the exact nature of this amendment. Save Our Stripers also had two other bills entered for consideration: the game fish bill and the PCB bill; however, no action has been taken on either of these bills this year and no action is anticipated.

Bob informed us that they have changed an aspect of the Sanctuary Bill about which we voiced some concern last year in one of our editorials. At the present time, the basic provisions of the Sanctuary Bill are as follows:

1. The DEC will establish a management program for the striped bass in the spawning area.

2. The spawning area is defined as: southern boundary—the Tappanzee Bridge to the northern boundary—Village of Coxsackie (Greene County) in the Hudson River.

3. All activities in this area that relate to or impact upon the striped bass resource, its reproduction, and development, shall be minimized so as not to impinge upon the continued development and replenishment of the striped bass stocks.

4. Impact statements from those involved in activities in the spawning area will be filed. Permission to conduct these activities will be contingent upon showing successfully that the activity would not harm the striped bass resource.

Bob Rance pointed out that if either bill—or both—passes both Houses of the State Legislature, that strong support from fishermen will be needed in order to help ensure that Governor Carey will not veto the bills. In the past, Governor Carey has been sympathetic to commercial interests who have lobbied strenuously against any bill pertaining to striped bass conservation and management. Bob stated that it would be a terrible shame to lose this legislation if we are successful in having them passed by the Legislature simply because we did not actively push the Governor to sign the bills. Save Our Stripers will make an appeal to have fishermen write letters to the Governor when the appropriate times comes. Bob suggests that you get your pens and pencils ready to go, but not to write the Governor at this time. Save Our Stripers will send out the word in plenty of time; premature letter writing will not help the cause.

Save Our Stripers wishes to thank all of the many fishermen who took the time to write to their State Assemblymen and Senators to vote yes for these two bills. There is no doubt that the voice of the people influences the passage of legislation.

Save Our Stripers also had some news about the overall coastal bass situation. The commercial fishermen from Long Island had used as an argument against the twenty-six inch limit that it was not fair that they be prevented from harvesting and selling bass under twenty-six inches when commercial fishermen in Maryland could harvest and sell them. To dilute the argument, Bob Rance pointed out that the Maryland commercial fishermen would lose a good portion of their market because they would not be able to sell these smaller fish in New York State. In addition, new regulations in Maryland will close the spawning rivers from April 26 to June 1, which represents about one-half the spawning season, and this will further reduce the harvests. An effort in Maryland to raise that State's minimum size limit from twelve to fourteen inches was vigorously opposed by a strong commercial lobby in Maryland and it was defeated.

However, Bob suggests that there is some reason for optimism since both northern states and southern states are making an effort to manage the striped bass. There was even a two-year moratorium on commercial fishing

(Continued on page 42.)

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Shrimp

Another World Record in the Long Island area! Dr. Einar F. Grell of Deer Park, New York set a new world record for Weakfish (13lbs., 2 oz.) in the 6 lb. class. Grell used Bagley's pink *Salty Dog Shrimp* to make his catch in Great South Bay.

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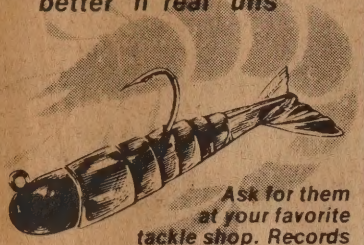

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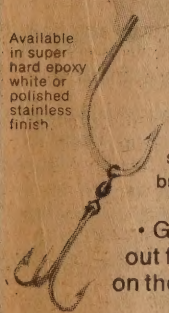

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S.O.S. Press Release:
ASSEMBLY APPROVES EMERGENCY STRIPED BASS MEASURE

In an effort to help the seriously depleted striped bass fishery, the New York State Assembly has passed a bill that would increase the legal minimum size for stripers from the present sixteen inches to twenty-six inches. The Senate must now act on the measure.

Since almost all female striped bass are not sexually mature until they attain a length of twenty-six inches, such a law would protect the fish until they have a chance to spawn at least once. Biologists and concerned anglers expect the emergency legislation to help restore the threatened fishery to viable levels.

Recently, the State of Maryland, also alarmed over continuing declines in commercial and recreational catches, for the first time closed its striped bass spawning rivers and surrounding areas to fishing during the 1978 spawning season. Fishermen in New York and other coastal states are bound to benefit from this action.

Passage of the bill by the Assembly came as a surprise to the part-time striper netters, who are expected to try to get the bill killed in the Senate. On the other hand, the Senate has a record of having passed the more controversial game fish bill on at least three previous occasions.

The relative scarcity of the fish has raised the market price to levels rivaling lobster, thereby making it too lucrative for the average commercial striper fisherman to have a conscience about speeding the possible loss of the fishery. Fred Hodgson, President of Save Our Stripers, warns New York's two-and-a-half million saltwater fishermen that, "We have come too far with this badly needed legislation to permit a handful of shortsighted market fishermen to unduly influence the Senate at this stage." All sportsmen are urged to write letters immediately to Senator Warren Anderson, Majority Leader, Senate Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224, and their own State Senators, urging passage of Striped Bass Bill S8987/A11929.

In addition to the backing of Save Our Stripers' membership of 5,900, the bill has the official support of the New York State Conservation Council, the New York Sportfishing Council, and numerous other unaffiliated clubs, tackle dealers and charter boatmen.

Since the measure must still be signed by the Governor, after being passed by the Senate, anglers should also write to Governor Hugh Carey, Executive Chamber, State Capitol,

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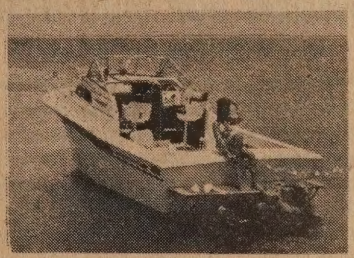

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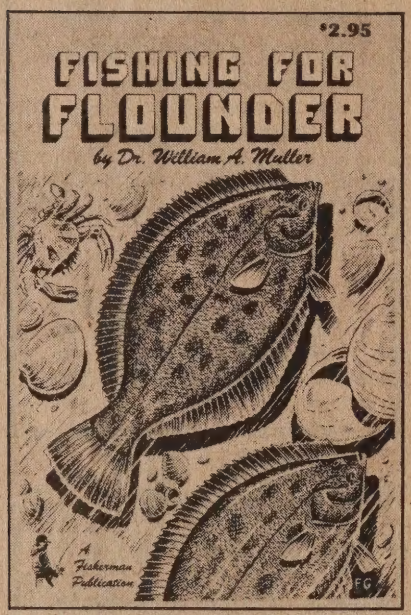

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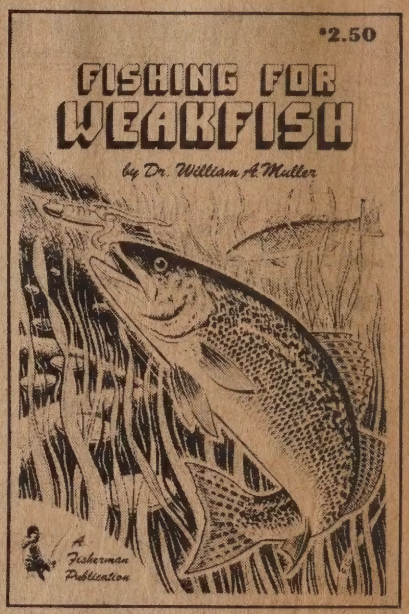

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Albany, N.Y. 12224. It should be pointed out that the emergency bill is designed to give the over-harvested fishery some relief, and in the long run, both commercial and recreational fishermen will benefit. For additional information, call: Fred Hodgson, (516) WE 1-3049, or Bob Rance, (516) 541-8676.

Stripers Unlimited Press Release:
RHODE ISLANDERS FAVOR REMOVING STRIPERS FROM MARKET

Sport and commercial fishermen in Rhode Island favor removing striped bass from the market. That was the dominant idea which emerged from the first public meeting of the Rhode Island Striped Bass Citizens' Advisory Committee held here on May 31.

Paul Bettencourt, an East Providence commercial fisherman, said that, "The only way to save them is to take them off the market for at least five years." When asked to vote on Bettencourt's comment, more than two-thirds of the fishermen attending the meeting favored the idea. Fishermen now get more than $2 per pound for whole stripers.

The Rhode Island meeting was similar to those being scheduled by citizens' committees in coastal states from Maine to No. Carolina. The groups are part of a federal-state effort to find out why the striped bass population has been dwindling in recent years.

Spawning area research commitments were also demanded by the fishermen. Speaking for the East Bay Anglers, a local fishing club, John R. Treat, President, said that, "What we are saying is that any attempts to manage or manipulate sport or commercial fishing prior to a major commitment in 'spawning area research' will be opposed by the East Bay Anglers." Treat was referring to the fact that striped bass are spawned in Chesapeake Bay, and that major laboratory expenditures are needed to determine factors inhibiting striper reproduction. His club insisted on research as the primary priority for the bass rescue effort.

According to Bob Pond, Executive Director of Stripers Unlimited, Inc., a national group concerned with striped bass survival, "The federal-state program as now structured, has no committee established to seek ways of removing stripers from the market." He also noted that, "The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the coastal program has no funding as yet for laboratory research into spawning factors.

Contests & Tournaments

ATLANTIC BEACH R&G VS. FREEPORT TUNA

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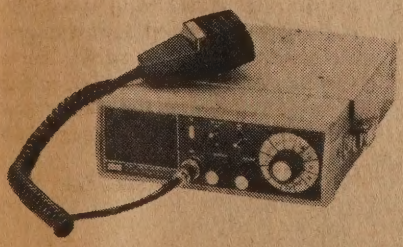

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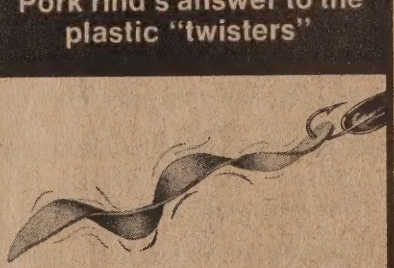

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intra-club tournament for the largest striped bass. The tournament is open to all members of the respective clubs.

First prize will be a custom rod and a 4.0 reel. Second prize will be a 4.0 reel.

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First prize will be 50 lb. custom rod and Penn 114H 6.0 reel; second prize, Penn 114H 6.0 reel.

L.I. INTER-CLUB WEAKFISH CHAMPIONSHIP

The Long Island Inter-Club weakfish championship was a huge success. The Eastern Anglers were crowned weakfish champions with a total weight for the three largest fish of 31 lbs. 4 oz.; Second place, Squadron Anglers with 29 lbs. 9 oz.; Third place, East Bay Anglers with 28 lbs. 2 oz; Fourth Place, Atlantis Anglers with 26 lbs. 12 oz; Fifth place, Hudson Anglers with 24 lbs. 2 oz.; and Sixth place, Amity Harbor Fishing Club with 10 lbs.

Individual awards for largest fish caught were: 1st place, Art Fiedler of Eastern Anglers, 11 lbs. 8 oz.; 2nd place, Steve Gross of Squadron Anglers, 10 lbs. 4 oz.; 3rd place, Lloyd Harrington, Atlantis Anglers, 10 lbs. 1 oz.

The next part of the Inter-Club championships will be fluke held August 26 and 27, 1978. All Long Island Clubs are invited to compete. For further details, contact Mark Kaufman at 798-3291 evenings, or George Vanderbeak at 234-1152, evenings.

CHUM LINES

QUINCY BAY IN NEED OF TIDY-BOWL?

We are fishermen who subscribe to your informative publication. We read your articles on Quincy Bay and decided to give it a try. We have now been going to Quincy Bay for three years. The first two years the weather was cold and the water choppy. This year we hit on a perfect day. It is our latest experience that I am writing about.

We left Hurley's Boat Rental on the morning of May 20. We went to the area near buoy 4, in the flats off West Gut, between Hangmans Island and Peddocks Island. This area is off the sewage plant peninsula at the end of Hough's Neck. We used to joke that the sewage plant attracted the fish. We found out this was more fact than joke.

We arrived at this area at the beginning of the incoming tide and fished the entire incoming tide in the area. We had tremendous success, filling the boat with flounder and pollack.

The fishing slowed down at slack tide and we broke for lunch. We were anxiously awaiting the outgoing tide for the fishing to pick up again. As the water started to move, the fish started biting, again with tremendous results. As the strength of the tide increased, we noticed the water got dirtier, cloudier and a film developed on the surface. Fishing was great, but the water was filthy. All of a sudden there was raw sewage, of every description, floating all around us. It was as though our boat was in the middle of a cesspool.

At this time, we put down our rods, looked around the area and noticed, a few hundred yards behind us, a gusher of raw sewage breaking the surface. We checked the charts of the area and saw, in small print, several outfall pipes ending right in the bay. We cruised around the area and realized they alternate the discharge from one outfall line to another as the tide moves out.

Upon returning to Hurley's, I was prepared to make an announcement of what we had seen. However, I encountered a lot of happy, smiling faces and decided not to start a riot.

We don't know what effect this has on the fish, but after seeing the raw sewage floating by, there was no way we could possibly eat our catch. I don't know if LIF is aware of this deplorable condition or if the sewage is treated in any way, but I feel it is my duty as an LIF subscriber, and the duty of LIF, to inform the many, many LI fishermen who fish Quincy Bay of this condition.

In all our many years of fishing, none of us have seen a more revolting sight as we did that day at Quincy. I am writing in the hope you will publish this letter and respond to it in your publication. **Joseph Petrush, Bay Shore.**

We have received many similar complaints from our readers concerning the water quality of Quincy Bay. Hopefully, publication of this letter will make everyone aware of the situation, and encourage Long Island fishermen to try fishing closer to home. The fishing may not be quite as good, but at least you can still look your family in the face after they have eaten your catch of flounder caught locally. **Scott S.**

26 INCH BASS LIMIT WILL BE WORTHLESS IF NOT ENFORCED

I am writing this letter in reference to the recent talk about raising the size limit of the striped bass to twenty-six inches. This, I believe, is a step in the right direction, but will have the same effects as the current sixteen inch limit unless those who enforce these regulations start to take their job more seriously.

I, personally, have observed for the past four years, a situation which if allowed to continue could spell an end to bass fishing in New York waters. The situation I am referring to occurs

each year from about the beginning of May, right on up to the end of November. It is the type of situation that if any effort at all is to be taken to save the striped bass, has to be corrected.

The situation takes place in an area that I am sure you are familiar with. It is the base of the Verrazano Bridge on the Brooklyn side. Each year, for the past four years in particular, I have watched "commercial fishermen" take illegal stripers, far below the sixteen inch limit, with no second thoughts. One day in particular, I recall watching two of these "fishermen" catch some sixty stripers of which maybe five exceeded twenty inches, and of these five none would have passed the twenty-six inch limit. These fishermen are compelled by the love of the outdoors, as are most fishermen, but their love of the almighty dollar.

During the time bass season occurs in our area, this situation is a daily occurrence, with as many as twelve boats involved at one time. Fishing both tides, day in and day out and taking numerous numbers of illegal stripers.

This area known to all the fishermen, seems to be a "no man's land" as far as conservation officers are concerned, for in all the times I've watched this great injustice to conservation-minded fishermen, I have never seen an officer in the area checking the catches of these boats.

Well, now that I have had my say, I am appealing to the publishers of the Long Island Fisherman, both as a subscriber and as a fellow fisherman, to perhaps inform the officers who are in charge of this area, to look into and correct the situation I have described. For to have a law that isn't enforced, is the same as having no law at all. **John F. Ryan, Brooklyn.**

We agree that an enforcement problem exists. In the past, we have spoken to enforcement officials of the DEC and the standard answer is "lack of funds." To their credit, the DEC's position is that they are against passage of any laws that aren't accompanied with funds for enforcement. We agree with this completely. Laws without enforcement are meaningless, so why kid ourselves? If the law is a good one, then it's worth the funding it would take to enforce it. Hopefully, Tony Taormina, Regional Director of the DEC, will further enlighten us on this matter. **Scott S.**

CAUSEWAY SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Causeway Fishing Club has openings for new members. They are primarily a surf fishing club, but are also active with small boats at times. Awards for striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish are presented at their annual dinner. If interested, call Ted Beery at 516-665-6517, or Kurt Wolf at 212-762-8226 evenings after 6 PM.

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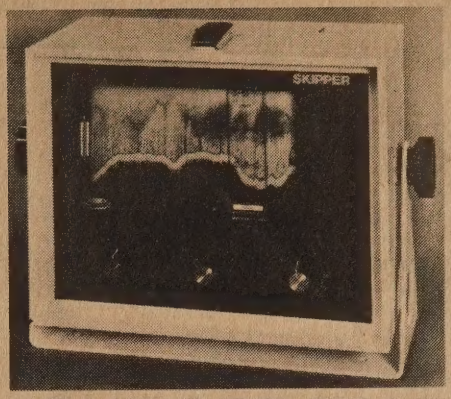

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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

BLUEFISH
(Pomatomus saltatrix)

MOST POPULAR FISH! That's not to presume that the bluefish is your personal favorite, but rather that the bluefish turned out to be the most popular species among our readers as determined by a recent survey. That really surprised us because we figured that it would either be striped bass or a bottom species like flounder, porgies, or fluke. It isn't hard to understand why blues are so popular since sport fishermen in our area can't find a meaner, more stubborn, hard fighting fish than bluefish.

ALWAYS A NEW TWIST! Last year I did three columns on blues and frankly, I figured that I had exhausted all that there was to say about blues for a few years—but how wrong a guy can be! Those columns were, by and large, about big blues since the alligators predominated the summer and fall catches last year, as they have for several years now. Sure, we reminisced about the 1960s when two to five pound blues were the terror of Long Island Sound and the south shore bays. The last minds around suggested that the dominance of big blues reflected the end of a cycle and that it would be a long, long time before hordes of smaller fish were part of the action.

HOW WRONG WE WERE! This spring many a fisherman sat around through prolonged periods of heavy weather and strong winds and unusual cold. Weakfishing was only a shadow of some recent years, and many good fishermen blamed at least some of this on the horrible weather. The water temperature was in the upper forties this May when the blues arrived. They hit the inlets of the south shore hell-bent for leather. They tore through the schools of sand eels and the plastic shrimp that fishermen were casting out for weakfish like locusts descending on a crop. Within a few days, they moved from New York Bight into Peconic Bay and some schools were discovered in Long Island Sound scarcely a week after they first appeared in Debs Inlet. Not just a trickle either, but millions of the toothy critters.

WHY! "Who cares," was one response we heard. Another fisherman said that he was surprised since such low temperatures are not favored by blues. In the end, it's the principle of supply and demand that counts. Three years ago, most fishermen noticed that there were many more snappers in the bays than was the norm. That's a hard conclusion to reach since snappers are always plentiful, but the signs were clear. The snappers were everywhere. Not just in the shallow water parts of the bays, but in the deep water and the ocean, too. No matter what species of fish an angler sought and no matter where he fished he found snappers. They were a plague.

SOME FISHERMEN DARED TO ASK. Could this mean...? It looks like the answer to their quiet questions was yes. The bluefish population is once again on the increase. Why? I guess nobody can really say for sure. Some might say that it's the eleven-year cycle and that the last big abundance of blues was in the mid-1960s, so we were due for another slug. Unfortunately, that's not an explanation; that's an observation. The reason for the increase and decrease of the species is still locked away in Mother Nature's vault. We can have a good deal more success explaining why the blues have appeared so early this spring and why they have been willing to invade waters that are, by all agreed upon scientific pap, too cold for the species. We fishermen have known it to happen before. When the bass were at the peak of their cycle several years ago, we began to take them in unlikely places. I managed quite a few bass in the middle flat areas of Peconic Bay during the day. This is frankly unheard of. There are bass to be had at night in the vicinity of Robin's Island—but in the rips, and not during the day. Now that the bass have declined, they have also re-trenched into classic bass territory.

THE THEORY OF EXPANDING POPULATIONS. When a given species of fish begins a rapid increase in numbers, there is a corresponding increase in competition. A given area, traditional in both season and geographical area, can no longer support the total numbers of fish that vie for the space and the food of that area. The result is that some portion of that mass of fish must push ahead of the main migration to find food. Bluefish, especially small and medium sized fish, may prefer water that fluctuates in the sixty degree range, but if hunger is the propelling force, they will manage to survive in almost any temperature above or below lethal limits. Preference may be one thing, but necessity is quite another!

THREE YEARS OF SNAPPER HORDES! That's a pretty sound base for an expanding population. Most good fishing action is based upon one, or at most two, concurrent successful year classes. If we have experienced

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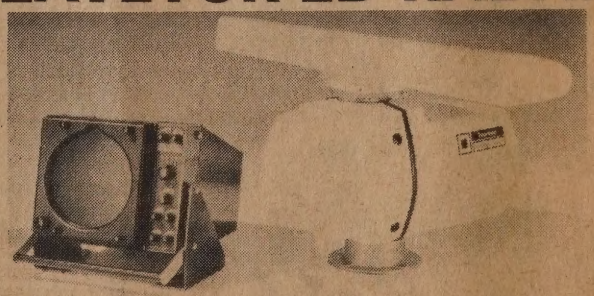

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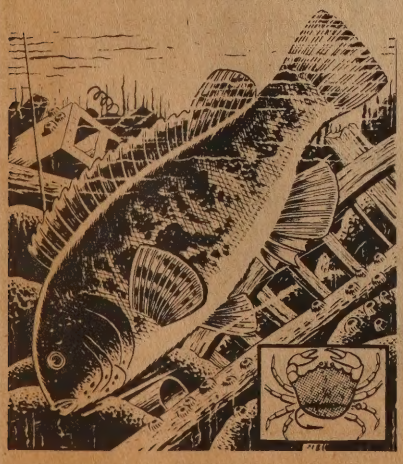
three consecutive excellent year classes and possibly a fourth this year, we may be in for some of the wildest bluefish action ever. Is this a valid assumption? There is simply no sure way to tell. We can only observe, witness, and conjecture. The events of the past three summers combined with what has happened this spring would certainly seem to point in the direction that we have discussed. If we are correct, then the future game fish angling around Long Island will be outstanding.

TACKLE MANUFACTURERS AND RETAIL STORES SEE DOLLAR SIGNS. Please don't flood me with hate mail. I do not mean this in a negative way. People go into business to make money, and times have been hard for the industry the past half-decade. A company or a store that does not make money goes out of business and the owner and his family may be forced onto the public ledger. I hope that no one wishes for this. We wish the people who share our sport all the best, because if they succeed, we will succeed. There is nothing that destroys tackle like bluefish, and there is almost nothing that can stimulate fishermen like mean toothy arrogant bluefish. A lot of bluefish means that the almost sterile Long Island Sound will come to life: the evening will once again be alive with schools of surface smashing blues and the joyous screams of fishermen following them everywhere. Umbrella rigs and wire line will come out of the closet after years of rest and recuperation. Popping plugs will once again become the order of the day, the evening air will hum with the whine of outboards pushed by their owners to reach a surface commotion before it dies. Wives will ask their husbands when their kids will see them again, and the fathers will answer, "In December, dear." Bluefishing is the closest thing to an orgy that I know of. It's a madness that can only be cured by seeing a popping plug destroyed by a fish with dentures that can rival those of piranhas. At a time when we are moaning the loss of good striped bass action, the blues may be ready to help us to wait for the bass to come home!



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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

NMFS Study Reveals High Cost of Permits for Sport Fishermen

During the April meeting, a proposal by the New England Council that sport fishermen be required to have permits in order to fish for cod and haddock created quite a debate within the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. I tried to get the Council to take a position against such a permit, as I felt it would be inordinately expensive and probably wouldn't serve any particular purpose that could justify the inconvenience that would be suffered by the general public. My motion was narrowly defeated since a majority felt that some good might be accomplished. The National Marine Fisheries Service was asked to come up with an estimate of the cost of providing a free permit to anglers in the northeast for all marine fisheries—as there would be no point in doing so fishery-by-fishery. At the May meeting in Cape May, NMFS representative Ken Beal provided an estimate of $1.85 per angler. In view of NMFS' estimate of the number of anglers in the northeast, this would mean an expenditure of $18-$20,000,000! This taxpayer suspects we can find better things to do with that sort of money!

State Department Calls For Increase in Foreign Mackerel Allocation.

Foreign nations fishing off our shores have been running into problems in catching the quotas of surplus species they've purchased licenses for. The primary reasons, as set forth by Spanish and Japanese representatives at the May Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting, are restrictive window areas and seasons; the blocking off of large portions of the window areas by fixed gear, and very restrictive by-catch levels. Without a doubt the foreigners have some legitimate gripes. After all, they did pay for the privilege of harvesting surplus stocks and should be given a fair chance to take their catch in a reasonably efficient manner. The Council is sympathetic to their problems and quite willing to look into adjustments to the window areas and seasons. A gear conflict committee is studying means of both preventing damage to fixed gear by trawlers, and having fixed gear set so as not to prohibit trawling in prime areas.

However, when it comes to by-catch, the Council continues to take a firm stand. All countries report problems in keeping their fisheries "clean," but some have run into particular problems. Italy was thrown out altogether when they far exceeded their by-catch of silver hake (whiting); Bulgaria found itself in trouble right away when it virtually filled its mackerel quota in the first couple of tows. As a result, State Department representative Sue Jelly urged the Council to increase the foreign allocation of mackerel from the present 1200 metric tons to 3500 metric tons. Pennsylvania Fish Commissioner Ralph Abele led the charge against this proposal and suggested that unless the State Department knows something about the condition of mackerel stocks that we don't, they shouldn't even make such proposals. Ralph further noted that the State Department seems to forget that the primary purpose of the Council is to conserve the resource.

Bill Feinberg (N.J.) and Dr. McHugh (N.Y.) expressed similar feelings. I pointed out that most observer reports indicate that the foreign vessels are staying within by-catch limits and that the restrictive quotas act as a spur to the vessels to be more efficient and selective in their fishing and techniques. If we concede every time they have a problem, we'll soon find that rather than improving technique, they'll constantly be asking for more allocation of by-catch. Some countries, notable the Japanese, have done an excellent job of restricting by-catch and, if it comes to that, the State Department must simply forget other foreign policy considerations (which they claim aren't taken into account in any case) and give the allocations to those countries efficient enough to harvest within by-catch restrictions.

It's interesting to note that the present foreign limit of 1200 metric tons wasn't simply a figure taken out of the air by the Council. In view of the serious shortage of that species, we at first set aside only 200 metric tons for foreign by-catch. However, NMFS studied foreign by-catch records and recommended 1,200 pounds as a realistic figure based on the foreign fisheries that would be permitted. Despite our misgivings, we were reasonable and went along with that figure. If that doesn't constitute a reasonable figure, it's because the foreigners were lying about their by-catches in the past—a fact that's hardly a surprise to anyone. Indeed, that sort of thing still goes on to some extent when observers aren't aboard. This seems pretty clear when one compares the by-catch noted with an observer watching, and that reported by the same ship at other times. On a motion submitted by Dr. Hargis (Va.) seconded by Bill Feinberg), the Council voted to hold the present foreign by-catch allocation in the Fishery Management Plan being submitted.

Bay Shore Shark Anglers May Be Able to Predict Catches by Temperature

An analysis of catches made in the Bay Shore Mako Tournament from 1965-1977 indicates that the composition of the catch can be accurately predicted by the water temperature at the time of the contest. During that period, 5,465 sharks were caught during the two-day tournament. The analysis, by famed shark expert Jack Casey (National Marine Fisheries Service, Narragansett, R.I. Laboratory) shows that when water temperatures are below 17° Centigrade, the catch was almost exclusively blue sharks. In years when the water is over 17.5° Centigrade, mako, sandbar (brown), and other species of sharks account for a large proportion of the catch.

The cold winter and relatively slow warming of the coastal waters would seem to indicate another year of blue shark concentration, rather than a good shot at the much more desirable mako. However, past experience has indicated that a storm at this time of year can change water temperatures drastically. It won't be until the tournament is actually held, on June 24-25, that an accurate predication based on this data can be made.

Catch rates in the Bay Shore Tournament have ranged from 0.8-8.6 sharks per boat. The highest rate was achieved last year when we enjoyed a superb run of blue sharks. However, the 150 boats fishing last year managed only thirteen makos among a reported 1216 blue sharks! Even that figure for blues is probably understated as on the second day many boats not in contention go directly home rather than reporting in. In the previous great blue shark year, 1965, only three makos were taken among 910 blues. On the other hand, in 1970, 94 makos were weighed in as against only 77 blues. The best year for makos was 1975 when 117 were caught, along with a decent total of 216 blues. Overall, blue sharks have represented 77.5% of the total catch, followed by sandbars (browns) 12.8%, duskies 0.7%, whites 0.5%, tigers 0.4%, and other sharks (hammerheads, threashers, and a single sand tiger) 0.4%.

During the past couple of years, anglers have been requested to tag sharks under 100 pounds; of 548 tagged, nine had been recovered by August last year—all but two within 100 miles and two months of tagging. One was captured in the same area the next year, and the other was a sandbar caught 400 miles southwest after ten months.

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with Matt Ahern

"Remember the Kids"

I had just finished stowing my fluke gear in the skiff when this kid walked out on the float and approached me. A blond kid about twelve or thirteen. I didn't pay too much attention until he spoke to me. "Mister," he said, "would you take me out fishing with you?" Just like that. No preliminaries, no hemming or hawing. Straight out with it. "What...?" "Fishing. Will you take me out with you?" Now I hemmed and hawed. "Gee, kid, I don't know," I replied, not knowing what to say to his unexpected question. "I have all my tackle at the house...it will only take a minute to get it." He looked into the skiff. "You must be going for fluke or weakfish. I see the net." "Fluke," I admitted. His eyes lit up at the thought. "I've never caught one. But," he quickly added, wanting, I suppose to dispel any doubt I might have, "I know how to fish. I catch a lot of snappers around here, and this spring I caught some flounders off this very float." He hesitated, then added: "I won't be any trouble. Honest." What the hell. "Okay, kid, get your gear and let's go." He was back in minutes. "My name's George," he said, stepping in the boat and carefully clearing a spot for his tackle. I introduced myself and we were on our way.

We fished the Reynold's Channel area near the Atlantic Beach bridge that day, and while only five average-sized fluke were caught, I believe that of the two of us, I had the most enjoyment. It was easy to see the kid had the instincts of a born fisherman and after I had caught a fluke, I decided to devote my time to giving the kid a few necessary pointers. His joy at hooking and landing his first fluke knew no bounds. He was ecstatic. "Boy! This beats snapper fishing all hollow," was his comment.

George and I continued to fish on occasion over the years and the last I heard, he had become so proficient at the art of enticing fish to the baited hook, that he had eventually become a party boat skipper in Key Largo.

Since then I have taken many kids fishing. Some were good fishermen and a joy to have along...and some were strictly a pain in the tail as most lively wide-awake kids can be at times. I'm sure that when I first became interested in fishing there were occasions when someone close by wished I'd taken up sand lot baseball instead. I know this, because there are times when some of the guys I fish with today wish some of those kids fishing near us would go overboard with the bait. But it's all bluff—so let's not hold that against these excellent fishermen. Kids are kids, as the old saying goes. And sensible adults wouldn't have it any other way.

Especially today. There are so many inducements for today's kids to get into trouble that I believe any fisherman with brains will look around to see what he can do to ensure the future of our country—and today's kids are our future. In fact, it's the only concrete investment in the future we have. Let me say right now that this is still a fishing column and I'm not about to preach or moralize. But when I hear some eager youngster who wants to learn the fishing game firsthand, being told: "G'wan, kid, get lost!" it bodes ill for all of us.

I'm sure George would have eventually become a party boat skipper whether I had taken him fishing that day or not. Any kid who loves the fishing game that much will find some way to go fishing. But what about those kids who toy with the idea, but are so hyper-sensitive to their surroundings that they become turned off by the brusqueness of unthinking fishermen. Think about it the next time some kid shows an interest in our sport.

I fondly recall one fisherman who did much thinking on the subject. This was Captain Tom Griffenberg who ran the party boat, Survivor II, out of Island Park. Tom's retired now, I believe, but he was certainly a master fisherman par excellence and a wreck-fishing specialist without peer. I know this for a fact, for I put in several years with him as mate. And many wonderful fishing days we had. Sure, we had our share of poor days like everyone else, but you may be sure they were few and far between.

Captain Tom was one skipper who made it a point to remember the kids. Just about every weekday during summer, two of Island Park's youngsters were guests aboard his vessel. That those kids had a ball bailing sea bass, porgies, and fluke from the wrecks we fished, goes without saying. There is no question in my mind that many of those kids are fishing today. Now I ask you: is that bad?

Anyway, fellers, think about it. You may be sure there are plenty of kids who want to go fishing so badly they can taste it, but they have little opportunity to satisfy that yearning—unless guys like you and I take notice of their plight and do something about it. From past experience, I can tell you not to be too surprised if you find yourself enjoying your good will gesture. Like me, you may even want to stop fishing for a couple hours some day, devoting that time to instilling a lifelong love for the fishing game in some eager youngster. It can be a most enjoyable experience. Perhaps it won't be as much fun as actually dunking bait yourself, but what the heck. And, remember, the Golden Rule certainly applies here.

If you would have the fishing gods smile your way, it won't hurt to remember the kids. It's worth the candle: I know.

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Surf Side with John Fritz

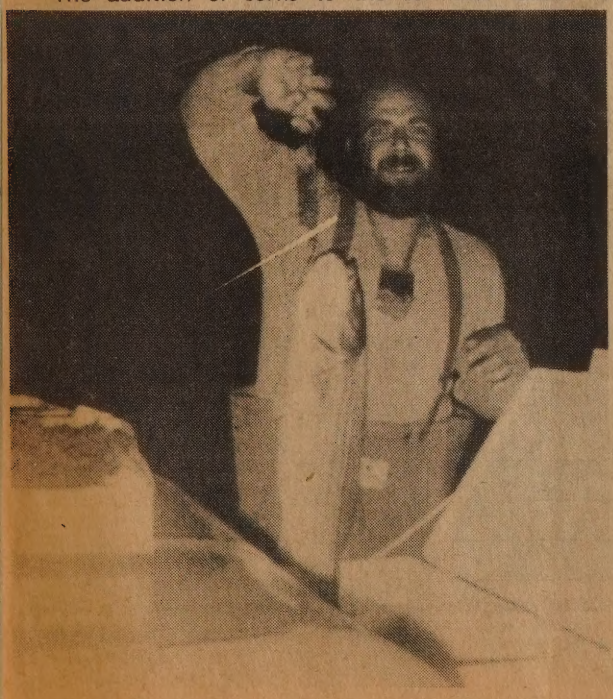
Even the Purists are Switching!

Due to the scarcity of striped bass along the Long Island surf line for the past two years, more and more surf fishermen are resorting to the use of bait. Whether the lack of fish is due to a decline in the overall population or the lack of sufficient quantities of bait along the beach, is a frequently discussed point. True, some nice fish have been caught on artificials, but the amount of effort expended to catch these fish is considerable. When the pods of large bait are not present to attract and hold schools of bass on the beach, it behooves those anglers seeking cow bass to use an enticement that cannot be passed up by stray fish. The striped bass is an opportunist who will engulf just about anything edible and often things which are not. I have found whole mussels, seaweed, and stones in the stomachs of bass when they are gutted. I am sure stranger articles have been uncovered by others. No, I'm not saying that when your terminal gear becomes covered with weed that you should leave it there, nor am I saying that if you tie a rock to your hook you'll catch anything but comic remarks; what I am trying to say is that the list of baits which can be used is extensive. Years ago, this list included such exotic baits as lobster tails, but at their cost today we can forget about such things. The most widely used baits are live eels, blood and sand worms, skimmer clam, crab, squid, bunker and mackerel.

Since this list includes such diversified baits as frozen fish, mushy clam bellies, and frisky eels, the methods employed to present these baits are different. There are several types of terminal rigs used. The main component of a surf rig is a three-way swivel with hook, line, and sinker attached to each respectively. The fish-finder's basic element is a sinker that can slide up and down the line. The loop rig consists of, as the name implies, two dropper loops tied in the line to which your hooks are attached.

If you are fishing with frozen bait, either of the terminal rigs mentioned will suffice. Sand worms and eels are normally used on fish-finder rigs.

The addition of corks to the terminal leader is recommended, with the lone exception being when live eels are the bait. Corks will keep the bait a little off the bottom and away from pesky crabs. The size cork depends on the size bait you wish to lift off the bottom. The small thin corks are sufficient when using worms, while the large red corks are needed when fishing large chunks of cut bait. Some restraint on the length of your leader is required so that your bait is not allowed to float to the surface where it will be picked up by the first gull.



If I suggest what I believe to be the most effective all-around bait for striped bass, I might get an argument, so I'll cop out by saying it's a tossup between eels and sand worms with fresh dead bunker coming on strong. Then there are those who swear by clam bellies, and from the amount of fish they catch, I can't argue too strongly against them.

Before choosing your bait, other considerations should be given some thought. The initial cost, availability, ease of storage, durability and what other fish are present which will take your offering, are a few things to consider.

Bass love live eels, which can be bought in large quantities and kept alive indefinitely at home with an aerator. This is the easiest live bait to keep for extended periods. I've kept them for up to three months this way in the backyard. One other advantage to using this bait is that big bluefish find the taste of eel to their liking.

Sand worms are the second live bait which will attract bass and weakfish with regularity. The cost and the difficulty of keeping them fresh for any length of time are two drawbacks found when using sand worms. Bloodworms are more hardy, but the size most often encountered renders them unsuitable as bait for large bass. Worms if purchased in flats (about twelve dozen worms) are cheaper per dozen than when bought separately. Worms will also keep longer in the flats than in the small boxes or plastic bags you receive them in at the tackle shop. By storing them in the bottom of your refrigerator, you might get a week out of them before they turn to mush.

All of your frozen baits can be acquired beforehand and packaged for the freezer in quantities suitable for each trip. Skimmer clam can be bought by the bushel, shucked, and frozen in plastic containers. It is best to make the packages small and take more than one if necessary, rather than to refreeze all your leftover bait after a night's fishing. When using these frozen baits, a spool of cotton thread carried in your bag will allow you to tie the thawed bait to your hook. In this way, it will be presented properly and not fly off the hook during the cast.

Practically all of your bass caught during the summer months will be taken at night. Whether it's because of increased waterfront activity, the bright sun, or just summer lethargy is irrelevant. It is during the quiet hours of darkness that they move into the shallows nosing around the bottom seeking food. Naturally some places are better than others in which to sling your hook. Any sloughs, holes, or cuts in the bars parallel to the beach should receive special attention. Areas adjacent to jetties and inlets are also favored.

One of the most productive methods is to cast a fresh dead bunker, encumbered with just your hook, from the tip of the jetties in the Rockaway area. Since a new supply of bait must be secured frequently, this practice is not too widespread.

Sand worms fished in the Breezy Point area starting about mid-June is a good bet. In fact, sand worms will take bass throughout the Island. Last summer, a fantastic run of weakfish and enough bass to add spice developed at Democrat Point. The rocky areas west of North Bar at Montauk are productive if the gillnetters can be persuaded to set their nets elsewhere. The north shore should not be left out for it harbors a surprisingly large population of good sized bass.

The list of possibilities is as long as the coastline of Long Island. This is not the fast-paced action which occurs in the fall, but what more pleasant way to spend a hot summer night than this? Sit back in your beach chair with your cold brew and leisurely await Ol' Linesides to find your offering.

THE HUDSON CANYON AQUARIUM

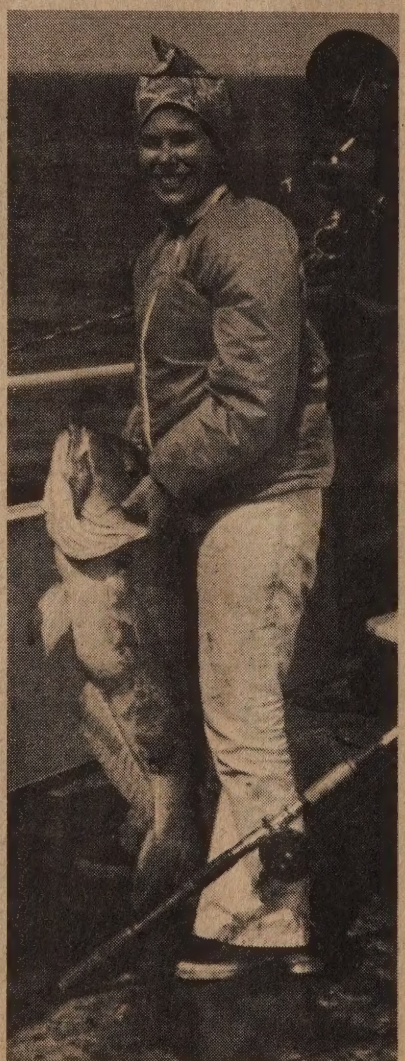
by Barbara Sands

When Long Island fishermen speak of the Hudson Canyon, it is with awe and respect, and a hush of longing in their voices. The Canyon is about ninety miles southeast of New York City, and over 2000 feet deep. That's where the big game fish lurk—the marlin and the tuna. Also found there are dolphin, and an occasional wahoo—the darlings of southern waters. They're all waiting right off New York City, but the trick is having the boat to get out there. Some say that it's easier to fly to Florida than to get out to the Hudson Canyon.

However, in recent years, the super-fast, twenty-five foot Sportfisherman has been developed, wtih a good strong hull and rigged strictly for fishing. These boats, aptly called Canyon Runners, can make the Canyon and back and still provide enough fishing time to make the trip worthwhile. Of course, the big tournament Fisherman, forty-two feet and over, can easily make the trip with their powerful diesel engines and huge reservoirs of fuel. Nevertheless, the difference in speed among these big boats can make all the difference between going and not going. Where one boat could make it in three-and-a-half hours, others could take from five to ten hours—one way. Fifteen hours cruising time for three hours of fishing might be just too unbalanced a ratio of time to really enjoy the day.

There is still another type of fishing done in the Canyon: tilefishing. Commercial vessels, 110 feet, made of aluminum, make overnight trips out to the Canyon. These boats are fast for commercial standards, and take a tremendous beating in wear and tear. A two-year-old boat is almost ready for obsolescence. However, in commercial fishing, it's even more important to get out where the fish are, and in the realm of boat building, distance has become a key factor. Tilefishing is one of the ultimates in bottom fishing: 400 feet deep with twenty ounce sinkers. What it lacks in sport, it makes up for in fantastic eating. Tilefish tastes just like lobster.

One of the prerequisites of Canyon running is a complete set of electronics. Going any distance on a boat leads to many different weather conditions over the course of one day. A perfectly calm dawn can blossom into sunny perfection, and then degenerate into a blistering thunderstorm, shrouding all visibility with dense fog and darkness. Radar is a must. A Canyon trip should begin around three or four in the morning. The boat has to pick its way in-between the markers of the inlet.



Author and tilefish, another delectable offering from the Hudson Canyon which taste just like lobster. This is overnight fishing on a party boat out of Sheepshead Bay.

Once in the ocean, other fishing vessels may be few and far between, and that's where they should stay. Also, one convenient attribute of radar, other than spotting markers and other boats, is that an oncoming storm is quite obvious on the radar scope, and oftentimes can be avoided by going through a "door" on the scope that is apparent in the cloud formation. And what a welcome sight after being on the water for twelve to fourteen hours, when the whole landscape around the inlet opens up across the screen!

Of course, in journeying to such deep waters, a depthometer that measures fathoms is a necessity. Ordinarily, we only measure feet on the south shore of Long Island, and many times I've longed for a depthometer that measured inches—especially in Great South Bay.

In conjunction with radar in sophisticated electronics, a good Loran spells out a successful fishing trip. Where radar brings you out and guides you home, Loran pinpoints where the fish are located. The fish seem to congregate at the dropoff point of the Canyon, and once the boat reaches that cutoff, fishing time starts. The numbers on the chart indicate exactly where that spot begins, and by doubling back, and making pass after pass over your numbers, the angler usually connects with fish.

There are many Lorans on the market today, and eventually Loran A will be completely phased out, and replaced with Loran C, which is more accurate and more easily maintained. However, if at all possible, it is much simpler and more convenient to operate an automatic Loran rather than the manual type. There are also Lorans that are partially automatic once the numbers are found, and then there are Lorans that only get one set of numbers at a time. It is very difficult to have to find two separate sets of numbers on a heavy, rolling sea. One of our friends borrowed his partner's Loran, and had it installed just for a trip out east. He had to go down into the cabin to use it, and the Loran actually worked very well during a particularly harrowing voyage through exceptionally stormy seas. It just took so long to get the

numbers, that our friend constantly felt that he was imminently on the brink of disaster. As soon as he got his family home safely, he returned the Loran and put his boat up for sale.

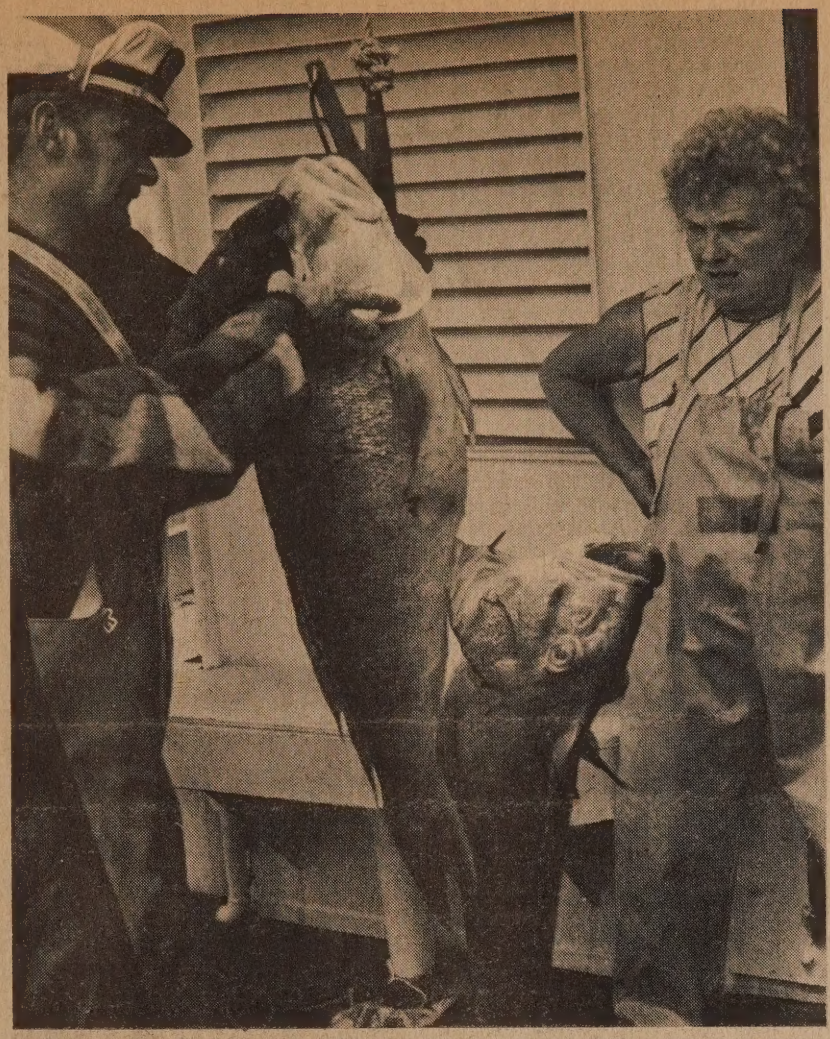
The week before a Canyon trip, the bait is ordered in advance and all the gear made ready. Two dozen rigged balao are juicy tidbits for marlin and yellowfin tuna. We try to have different colored feathers available to determine the best combination of the day, and a skirt around a feather is always tantalizing to a tuna. Also, the wire leaders on the feathers are carefully checked for any kinks. The lines are scrutinized, all knots are retied, and any monofilament that is worn or frayed is cut away. A big fish on twenty or thirty pound test line is struggle enough without having a frayed line pop just when you think you've landed a monster. Anything extraneous is removed from the boat: chairs, steps, any apparatus that could be in the way if all lines hit at once. The bait is kept in a cooler on ice. The fighting chair is there in case we need it, but it is actually much more flexible to fight a fish standing.

About 3:30 a.m., all hands are ready, and there is a careful conference on the weather. If the winds are slight, and the prognosis for the rest of the day is good, we have a quick cup of coffee and a doughnut, the lines are dropped and we go. A quiet rain is okay, even fog is okay, but high winds are prohibitive. Many a time, the water roughens as we leave the inlet, and the ocean becomes uglier and uglier. Sometimes an hour or two out we must turn back, and the ride back becomes twice as hard.

For every time we get to the Canyon, we turn back two. But once we get past the halfway mark, and we know the trip is a go, we settle back and watch the ocean grow more and more vast. Whales spout in the distance. New Loran positions are taken every forty-five minutes, and recorded on our chart. This way we have a visual picture of our progress, and any necessary corrections can be made. Our last position is taken one mile before the mouth of the Canyon. At this time, our lines are made ready and put over the side—and finally, we begin to fish. The Captain shouts that we're coming near the dropoff. Four rods are out, and we're all wearing belts and shoulder harnesses. What does the deep blue Canyon hold for us this time? We are breathless with anticipation. No more than five minutes past the dropoff, one of the lines snaps loose from the outrigger, and the rod bends in two. One of the crew grabs the rod to begin the long, grueling battle on light tackle. And then we watch and wait, our eyes straining into the water.

Suddenly, like a bolt of iridescent lightning, a billfish clears the water, pointing toward the sky. It's a white marlin, a slender miracle of beauty in New York waters. It dives, and then

(Continued on next page.)



This grandmother almost had the pool fish, and she certainly should have won a medal for her strenuous efforts. This woman is a tilefishing regular, as can be noted from the slicker she was wise enough to bring along.

Larry kneels on a frisky white marlin while Fred Zier attempts to wrap it in a blanket. The marlin suddenly came thrashing back to life when it was brought on the boat.

again it jumps, and then again, tail-walking gracefully along the top of its ocean home. We, the crew, gape in admiration and awe, temporarily ignoring the struggling angler. Then we all get busy as the lovely billfish is drawn closer and closer to the boat. Each successive run is shorter and shorter, until finally the marlin can be led to the stern of the boat resting on its side, completely spent.

Then a tail rope can be slipped on, and the transom door opened. As the Captain backs the boat down, one of the crew pulls the marlin through the door as the water rushes in. The marlin suddenly revives, and does not take its captivity lightly. It takes two men to subdue its thrashing. One of the crew actually sits on the billfish, while another wraps it in a blanket. We hose it down, and congratulate ourselves on our prize. However, the Captain, Fred Zier, owner of the "Drop Stitch," the boat we are fishing on, mentions the possibility of another marlin in the same vicinity. Fred is an excellent navigator, and a knowledgeable angler as well. "It's just possible," he says, "that if we make another pass over the same numbers, we may pick up another marlin. They quite often travel in pairs."

The rods and the lines are made ready. We have rigged balao on the outriggers, and feathers on the flat lines. As we troll toward the dropoff, a big yellowfin tuna jackknifes out of the water, and attacks the balao. This was no supple billfish cutting through the water effortlessly, but a hulking denizen of the deep catapulting its husky body out of the water with all its locomotive power.

This time the angler had his work cut out for him. He had a big fish on, and a skittish one at that. Yellowfin are difficult to bring to the boat, with a nasty habit of spitting out the hook at the last agonizing moment. The angler reels slowly and steadily, making very sure not to let any line go slack. He needs the shoulder harness with this one. Everytime the fish gets up to the boat, he takes off again, and the line zings out in a frustrating accompaniment to the angler's groans. But finally the fish is brought up to the gaff, and it takes two men to lift the monster on board. The yellowfin is a beautiful tuna, with its sunny yellow and shiny black markings, and good eating to boot. The angler now has a chance to rest.

We are still on our way back to the dropoff, and the lines sing out again. This time, we pull in dolphin—again, minor miracles in New York waters. We also get some lively action from bonito hitting the feathers.

Fred Zier signals that the dropoff is near. Suddenly, the line runs out; I grab the rod and hand it to the angler next in turn. Once again we clear the deck for action. And watch and wait. The waters part as another white marlin, bigger than the first, leaps toward the heavens like a neon flash. The dazzling billfish dances on its tail five times until the angler tires it out enough so that we can bring it in through the transom door. Then we wrap it in a blanket next to the other one, and wet them both down.

A couple of more tuna attack the lines, and we get a few more dolphin. We start throwing bonito back; our fishwells are full.

And then it is time to turn back. A little after two in the afternoon, and we would still be back after dark. The weather could always deteriorate, and slow us up for hours and hours more.

It had been a great fishing journey, one we all relished, and well worth the preparation and time. We had a good boat, an experienced captain and crew, and we were able to turn the Hudson Canyon into a fisherman's paradise.

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THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

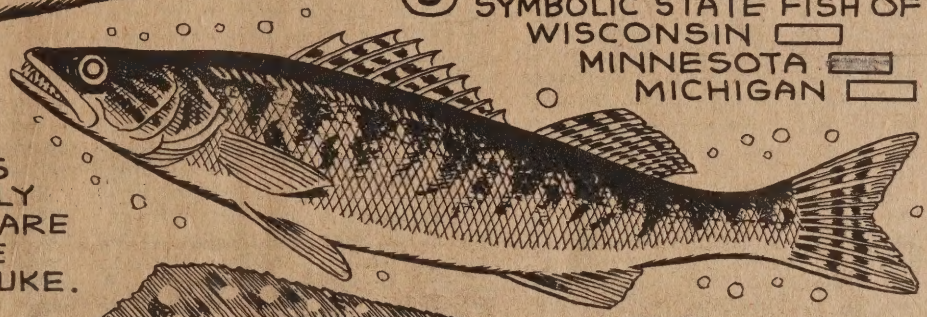
ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

(1) A GIGANTIC 3417 LB. WHITE SHARK, THE HEAVIEST FISH EVER TAKEN ON ROD AND REEL WAS CAUGHT IN 1976 OFF AUSTRALIA ON WHALE MEAT BAIT AND WHOLE BLOOD CHUM. IT IS A NEW IGFA WORLD RECORD.
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(2) THIS SLENDER FISH, A CLOSE RELATIVE OF THE SEA HORSE, INHABITS EEL-GRASS AND SEAWEED BEDS OF THE NORTHEAST. IT IS A
SNIPEFISH ☐ PIPEFISH ☐
SHRIMPFISH ☐

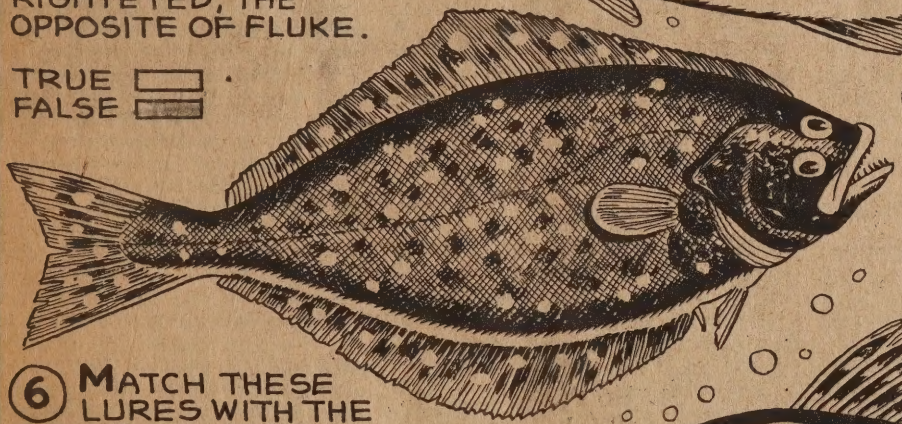
BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) THE WALLEYED PIKE IS THE SYMBOLIC STATE FISH OF
WISCONSIN ☐
MINNESOTA ☐
MICHIGAN ☐



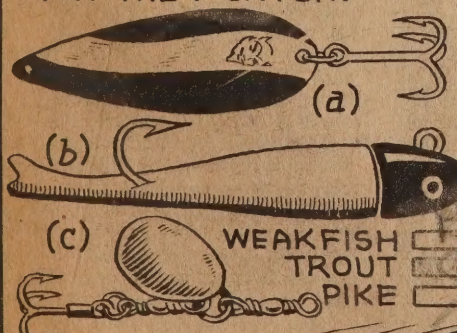
(4) FLOUNDERS ARE THE ONLY FLATFISH THAT ARE RIGHTEYED, THE OPPOSITE OF FLUKE.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(5) THIS SEVEN-INCH FISH KNOWN AS "SCOURGE OF THE AMAZON" IS ATTRACTED BY BLOOD AND WILL ATTACK ANYTHING IN THE WATER. IT IS A
TIGERFISH ☐
PIRANHA ☐
CHERICIN ☐

(6) MATCH THESE LURES WITH THE FISH THEY CATCH.



WEAKFISH ☐
TROUT ☐
PIKE ☐

1 - FALSE. USING MAMMAL BLOOD OR FLESH IS A NO-NO. THE I.G.F.A. WHITE SHARK RECORD OF 2664 LBS. STILL STANDS. 2 - PIPE FISH. 3 - MINNESOTA. 4 - FALSE. A WELL KNOWN RIGHTEYED SPECIE IS THE ATLANTIC HALIBUT AS PICTURED. 5 - PIRANHA. 6 - (a) PIKE (b) WEAKFISH (c) TROUT.

SOUTH SHORE FLUKE FISHING

PART ONE *by Ron Onorato*

For those of us who spent any time fluke fishing along the South Shore areas of Long Island, 1977 will be looked back upon by some as very good, while others will have nothing but bad words about the fishing. To say the least, the action varied from very good to very poor. For those who spent a lot of time on the water seeking the summer flatties, the production was good. There were a fair amount of medium sized fish, with a bunch of small ones, with very few big fish. Those anglers who could fish once a week, found the fishing very picky.

What do we have to look forward to this year as far as the fluke fishing goes? Well, it would seem that the fluke are on a bit of a decline from the past few years. The draggers are getting fair amounts of fish from various deep-water grounds, but not in any great quantity. There were enough young fluke around last year to indicate a modest stock of larger fish for this year. Like anything else in fishing, nothing remains the same; so we have to be optimistic, and hope for the best.

By far and away, the vast majority of fishermen spend their time pursuing the fluke in many of the South Shore bays and channels. The vast majority of the fluke population enters the bays through the various inlets to feed and spend the summer foraging on the plentiful supply of food that is available. The fish, for the most part, are on the small side, although as many will attest, big fish are regularly caught inside. The bays are havens for sand eels, spearing, killies, grass shrimp, tiny eels and crabs, and all of these are eagerly consumed by the fluke. Apart from the summer resident population of fluke that establish themselves inside the inlets, a separate school or body of fluke spend the summer out in the ocean along the mussel beds and other hard bottoms. In this first part of the article, we'll concentrate specifically on fishing for the flatties inside the inlets and bays, and leave the ocean fluke to the second part of the article.

Quite naturally, the fluke enter the bays and channels through the inlets along the South Shore. The fish have really traveled quite a distance from their offshore wintering grounds and are lean and mean, ready to do some heavy feeding when they show up in local waters around the middle of may. The fish stack up in the inlets and will feed there for anywhere from a week to ten days. Debs, Jones, and Fire Island Inlets seem to get a good shot of fish as they steam into the bays. Like most other types of fish, the fluke like to do things the easy way—so they do most of their feeding on the flood tides.

After the fish pass through their feeding spree in the inlet, they branch out into the various bays and channels along the South Shore and will feed throughout the summer months until they get ready to make their exit and start the fall migration back out of the bays to their wintering grounds. Usually around the beginning of September, the fish start to gang up again in the inlets, and by the middle of the month, are usually pretty well clear of the beach.

As mentioned earlier, the fluke are really quite voracious and will actively pursue bait fish at any level of water depth. When the fish start to feed in the shallows, they may at times even chase the bait right to the surface. A new twist to the fishing has been the use of artificial lures to take fluke. We'll take a closer look at this later in the article. For now, we'll concentrate on the use of natural baits.

Before we get to the actual rigging itself, we'll take a brief look at what sort of tackle you can use. While I feel spinning tackle affords one the opportunity to enjoy the fight of a fish much better than conventional tackle, the revolving spool reel gets the nod over the spinner for efficiency's sake. When the fish are heavy, you can get by with a fly rod if you have to; but when the fish are spread out—and they are very selective in their feeding habits—conventional tackle allows you a greater amount of control over what your bait is doing. Again, this is a personal opinion; fish with whatever tackle you feel comfortable with.

Ask any fluke fisherman what his favorite bait is, and you're likely to come up with a dozen different baits. One fisherman will swear by live killies, while the man fishing in the next boat will only use sand eels, and the guy right next to him is fishing with frozen spearing. The way to find out what the fish like best is to have at your disposal, three or four different types of bait. Personally, I like live killies as the best bait for bay fluke. The live bait seems to stir up the interest of the fluke much more than dead bait. A three or four inch lively killie dancing on the bottom has taken more than its share of big fluke. You hook the live fish lightly through the lips with a #1/0 fine wire Eagle Claw hook that is rigged on a twenty inch length of leader material. By means of a three-way swivel, the hook is attached about five or six inches above the sinker.

Right behind the live killie, seems to be fresh sand eel bait. Most sand eels sold in bait stores are of the frozen variety, and while they will work with some degree of success, the fresh bait is the more effective of the two. What happens with the frozen sand eels is that the belly section bursts when they are thawed out, and this impairs its action on the hook. Fresh sand eels, on the other hand, are really rather firm and will stay on the hook much better. You can get fresh sand eels by the five gallon tin at the Fulton Fish Market for a fraction of their cost. Admittedly, a five gallon tin may seem like a large amount of bait, but you have to realize that if you purchased the amount of sand eels you got in a tin at a retail bait store, it would cost you about $40. Last year a tin of fresh sand eels was selling for around $10. The best thing to do here is get together with a couple of fishing friends and when you get a tin, split it up among them. Fluke, especially the smaller ones, will easily tear the frozen sand eel from the hook; while with the fresh meat, it usually means a hooked fish.

As far as the rigging of the sand eel goes, the much-written about tandem hook rig is the only way to go. You will find that with the tandem hook rig, you'll get about an eighty percent hook-up ratio; while if you stayed with the single hook rig, your average will be less than fifty percent hook-up. The tandem hook rig has been mentioned on numerous occasions in past issues of The Fisherman; so go back through them and you'll see how it's done.

Other baits that will produce with some degree of consistency include

earing, and as a last resort bait, rips of squid will sometimes put a w fish in the box. Sometimes, a mbination such as spearing and a uid strip, or a live killie with a strip squid will often produce better than st a solo bait.

Because of their predatory nature, ike will pursue a moving bait much ore readily than it will a stationary it; so naturally you should attempt exert as much movement as ssible to your bait—whatever it ay be. In an effort to do this, you can one of three things: you can drift th the tide and wind; you can troll owly with a small outboard, or ally, you can anchor and cast out ur bait. Each of these methods has s own application at its own rticular location.

In addition to the use of natural it, artificial lures are being used ore frequently as a viable fluke tcher. When the fish are feeding in allow water where the currents are ght, they will quickly take an tificial. A small white bucktail jig nging between three-eighths to e-half ounce tipped with a small rip of squid has proven to be a very fective fluke catcher. The use of the g is really quite limited, but when nditions are right, its use should not e ruled out.

Drifting is perhaps the most widely racticed method of fishing for fluke, nd this is so for a number of reasons. ou can cover a lot of territory and cate the fish. For fishing wide open eas, drifting is the ticket. The sadvantages of drifting arise usually om poor weather conditions. Ideally, windless day is the best for drifting, s a brisk wind will move your baits ong the bottom too quickly, especi- ly if it is in the same direction as the urrent; while a wind against the tide tuation will keep the boat from oving much at all. Drifting also has limitation in small areas, or if the sh are concentrated in small ockets.

When fishing in tight areas where rifting is impractical, trolling against ne tide with a small outboard motor ill produce amazing results. For a ng period of time, it seemed that the uke would only take a bait drifted own with the tide. If you trolled your ait along the bottom with the urrent, it would move too fast. So the cals began trolling into the current ith their small kickers, and they egan catching a lot of fish. Most fish eed on their prey as it is carried long the bottom by the tide. When ou troll up-current, the bait is ctually moving against the current, nd seems unnatural. But apparently, doesn't matter to the fluke, as they eadily take baits trolled up-current. A six or nine horsepower outboard is deal for this fishing as you can get he idle down to a crawl, and this is what you want. The big plus in rolling your bait is that you can stay ight on top of the fish once you locate hem. When an area crowds up, drifting becomes ineffective, but you can troll circles around an area.

If drifting or slow trolling doesn't provide the action you're seeking, then you can anchor up in a spot and try chumming the fish to the boat and then induce the fish to hit your baits by rod manipulation. If there are other boats in the area, and they are all drifting, you won't make many friends by just dropping the hook right in the middle of them. Go off on your own in an area where you have caught fish before. Drop over a flounder chum pot with quart size logs of frozen bunker chum. Do this in an area that has a good tide pulling so the chum will be dispersed over a wide area. Fluke will range over the area, and once they get the scent of the chum, they will move in for a look. Because they like a moving bait, and the boat is stationary, any action imparted to the bait must be done by rod manipulation. If you're fishing live killies, keep the sinker as light as possible, and allow it to drift back into the current. After it is out about a hundred feet or so, begin a very slow retrieve back to the boat. Actually, you can do this with any of the other baits as well. As long as you keep the bait moving, the fluke will very eagerly take the bait from a stationary vessel. Give the spot about thirty-five or forty minutes before moving on to another spot.

It would be very hard to actually pinpoint a single spot that could be called a fluke hotspot. Some areas consistently hold fluke year after year; while other spots crop up from time to time each season. First, look for fluke on a somewhat harder bottom than you would the flounder. A hard sand bottom will produce better than the soft mud the flounder favor. A good spot to start looking is around the main channels that have smaller creeks emptying into them. Reynold's Channel from East Rockaway Inlet, all the way down to Jones Inlet has to be considered fluke territory. The fish will feed the length of the channel at varying stages of the season. After a few trips, and watching where some of the other boats are catching, you'll develop your own spots.

Next week we'll take a look at fishing for the big boys out in the ocean and along the beaches, and in the inlets with the use of live and whole baits.

Norm Landsberg with a short fluke taken on a strip bait.

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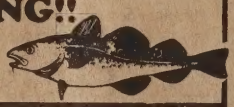

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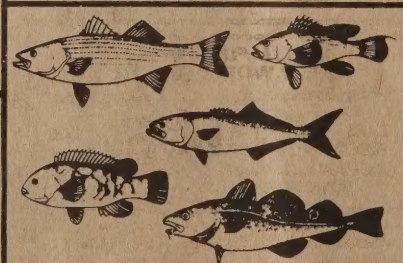

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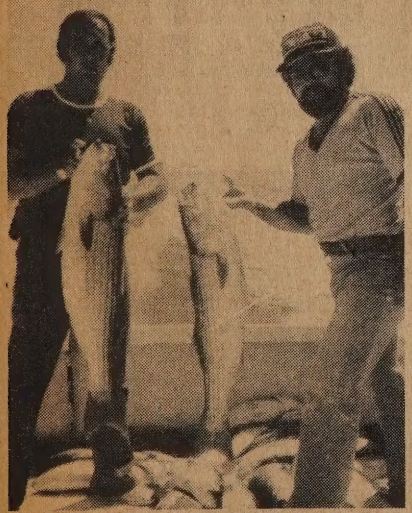
Captain John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** told us that the bass fishing was very good all week, but you really had to work for the fish. The fish have been at all the usual haunts like Great Eastern, The Elbow and Pollack Rip, but it's a matter of being in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. Best action has been on the DeMaio Jig during the moving current and umbrella rigs around the change of tide. The fish are large, with a couple of 30 lb class fish in virtually every catch. Scores for the weekend were fourteen Friday afternoon, 16 on Saturday's morning trip and ten in the afternoon, four Sunday morning and eight in the afternoon. A few bluefish have been mixed with the bass in the deeper water.

Captain Warren Hader of the charterboat **Devilfish** reported that on Sunday morning's charter he took nine striped bass to thirty pounds trolling umbrella rigs around Great Eastern and Pollack Rip. Warren said that the offshore fishing has really been picking up for blue sharks, and it looks like another great season in the making.

Captain Artie of the charterboat **Bumble Bee III** reported having a great day fishing offshore for sharks. Ten blue sharks up to 124 lbs were



Bob Foley and friend from Farmingville hold up two of the eighteen striped bass they caught on a charter aboard Capt. Phil Lewis' "Adios" out of Montauk last Friday. The fish were taken trolling umbrella rigs around Great Eastern during a half-day trip.

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taken in 220 feet of water southeast of Block Island. To put something in the box to eat, the Captain stopped at the East Grounds by the Southeast Light of Block Island and trolled umbrella rigs. He said the bluefish were in thick and really stacked up, and in a short while 38 blues in the 8 to 10 lb range were brought in. Imagine if they were fishing all day for them!

We received a call from Captain Freddie Bird of the open boat **Flying Cloud** informing us that he had an unfortunate automobile accident last week and is now laid up in Southampton Hospital with a broken leg. But a little thing like that won't stop the Bird, and he will be back at the helm next week, cast and all. Captain Bob Winters, formerly with the Sheepshead Bay boat "Eagle" has been running the boat meanwhile, and reported very good fishing on Sunday for sea bass and ling at Frisbee's and Rocky Hill. The first porgies are also being taken around Great Eastern, and they are the usual run of big fish.

Captain Buddy Dorman of the open boat **viking Skipper II** reported that the action on Saturday was excellent at Frisbee's and Rocky Hill for mixed bags of jumbo sea bass, ling and flounder, with the ling predominating the catch. A few blackfish are also being taken, and the high hooker Saturday had 46 fish. Sunday's fishing was done at Gardiner's Island and the anglers aboard loaded up on porgies that averaged over two pounds. A few of the fishermen aboard 35 to 40 porgies plus some nice sea bass and blackfish. Buddy said that some porgies are also starting to be taken locally; so he is now switching to porgies exclusively, sailing weekdays at 6 AM and earlier on Saturday and Sunday.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** said that bass fishing has been very good for those that are good at it. Capt. Dave McMann of the "Marie III" has been doing a good number on bass up to 30 lbs., and Ken Turco, local rep for Sisu boats, took six bass trolling plugs Saturday night. Largest was over 40 lbs., three over 30 and two rats of about 15 lbs. Michele Stern of the "Mi-Jil-I-Jo" caught a 16 lb. bass. The "Striker" landed eight blue sharks and 14 bluefish fishing offshore. L.I.F. Editor, Scott Simons had Chuck Williams of Guinan Lithographers aboard during the week and found Chuck a suicide-prone bass of 22 lbs., that ended it all with a DeMaio Jig.

Capt. Fritz Hubner of the charter boat **Mistress Too** called to report that the offshore shark fishing has been very good south of the Point in water 230 to 240 feet deep. Virtually all of the sharks are blue sharks and range up to 125 lbs. No mako sharks reported as yet. On Thursday, 6 blue sharks up to 125 lbs. were caught.

Charles, George, and Bob with 16 striped bass, three of which were in the 30 lb. class. George had the largest, a 38 pounder. All but two were taken on DeMaio jigs on the charterboat "Vivienne."

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Shown are the pool winners on the "Viking Starship's" three day Georges Bank Safari. Ray Left to right are Ray Erb with a 51 lb. cod, Joe Yale with a 54 lb. cod, Joe Weakland with a 23 lb. haddock, "Chopper" with a 53 lb. cod, George Block with a 21 lb. wolf fish, and Mac Abe with two pollack of 26 and 30 lbs.

Fritz also said that there are a load of bluefish offshore and those wanting to can hit all of the big choppers they want in the chum slicks.

Charter boat **Darius II** reports the offshore fishing is very good. Sat. saw 9 blue shark and an assortment of bluefish taken in the slick. On Sun., 14 blue shark were hooked along with all the bluefish the people could handle. A pod of pilot whales was sighted on Sat., 15 to 18 mi. offshore of the Lighthouse.

Clove Marina reports that the fishing was excellent over the weekend even when the weather was not so good on Sun. Boats came in with excellent catches of flounder, sea bass and blackfish. There were a few stripers and a few blues brought in also. Fluking is picking up in the Rips. Lou Carrillo on the Black Onyx had an excellent catch on the weekend of sea bass and fluke, both days. The Shark Hunter did very well fishing 20 mi. south of the Point and says there is plenty of action offshore.

Charter boat **Sea Doll** called to say that on Sat. he had roughly 15 blue shark fishing 30 mi. south of the Point. These fish ran up to approximately 150 lbs. each. They hear on the radio that the swordfish are milling about looking for trouble.

The Marlin IV asked us to announce that they have started fluke and sea bass fishing at the local grounds and that this fishing is improving daily. Sailing time is 7 AM every day.

Capt. Tom McCann on the **Margaret V** pulled in a double-header of weakfish of 8 and 9 lbs., trolling umbrellas at the Point. Tom is getting 7 or 8 bass per trip, bass running from 15-25 lbs. each.

Charter boat **Adios** called to say that on Friday morning that Bob Foley on a 2 man half day charter caught 18 striped bass, each averaging in the mid-20s. Sun. afternoon saw Joe Pellicone of Staten Island bag 11 stripers, one weighing approximately 30 lbs. Capt. Phil Lewis has been doing extremely well on bass all week, using umbrella rigs, fishing Great Eastern, the Elbow, and a couple of other pet spots.

Charter boat **Daybreak** reports that on a half day charter on Sat. morning, they took approximately 25 bluefish in the 12 lb. range, fishing the Sub Buoy on umbrellas. They also caught a 25 lb. pollack on the umbrella.

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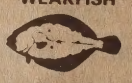
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BLUEFISH

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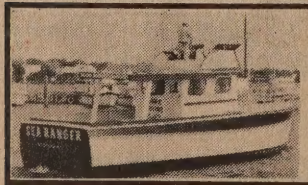

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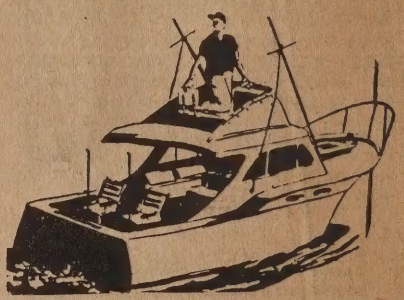

Lynn Bronson holds the 40-lb. striped bass she caught last year on the family's boat *Sea Spray* last fall on an umbrella rig at the Elbow. *Photo courtesy of Star Island Yacht Club.*

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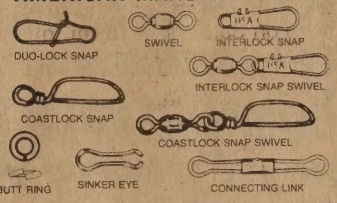

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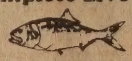
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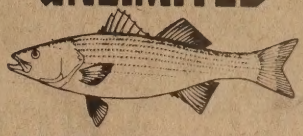
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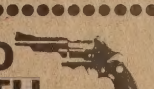
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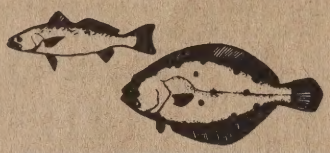

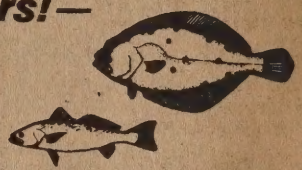

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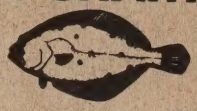
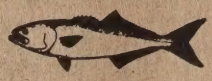


BLUES
FLUKE
WEAKS



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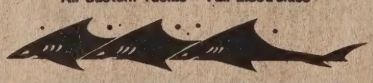

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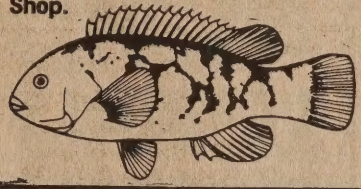
Bob Roberts took this 29½ lb. striped bass fishing Ft. Wadsworth with Danny swimmers. Photo courtesy of Santo's Sport Shop.



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Tom, Pat, Leigh and Mario with 7 weaks from 7 to 9 lbs. taken in Snake Hill Channel on rubber worms and salty dogs aboard their boat Leigh-Way. Photo courtesy of High Hook Fishing Station.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

SHINNECOCK

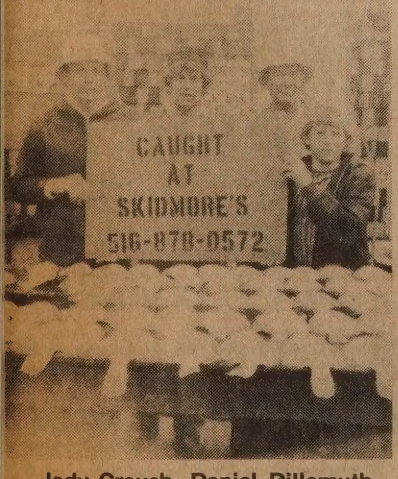
The Captain Clark Fleet reports porgies improving rapidly in Peconic Bay. Hi-hook on the **Capt. Clark I** was Isi Soddo from Manorville with 32 porgies and 4 blackfish. The **Capt. Clark II** fished offshore on Sat. and Sun. for mixed bags of seabass, ling and blackfish. Hi-hook on Sunday was David Dorf of Long Beach with 15 seabass, 20 ling, and 2 blacks. The **Capt. Clark Fleet** plans offshore trips on weekends. weather permiting.

HAMPTON BAYS

Tonys Fishing Station reports still a lot of flounder at buoy 18 on worms. Fluke are on the east side of the bridge with boats averaging 15-20 fluke per boat, fish up to 3 lbs on sand eels and squid. Offshore on Saturday, Lanny and brother Kit Molnar of Highland NJ fished SE of the inlet in 258' of water and bagged 6 blue shark up to 175 lbs, 1 dusky, and 1 white shark pup. The pup weighed 144 lbs and was caught on a bluefish tail. All but the white shark pup were released.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait & Tackle** tells us that Ed Schroeder on his boat Jo-Lyn fished 185' of water SW of the inlet on Sunday to the tune of 38 blues and 2 blue shark one of which was 120 lbs, both sharks cut loose. Blues were taken in the chum slick. Bluefishing was great on umbrellas till Thursday at which time things became spotty. Fluking is fair to good, but is not steady and strong yet. Best fluke have come out of buoy 36, inside the Elbow, buoy 26 and the Cut. Flounders on blook and sandworms at buoy 39. Some scattered seabass at the E. Cut of the Inlet on clam and squid. Tony Rizzo has been getting bass on every trip out on live bait in the bay and with umbrellas fishing the bar of the inlet.



Jody Crouch, Daniel Dillemuth and two sons David and Donald, with their catch of 50 flounder up to 2 lbs. 4 oz. taken near buoy 36 on bloodworms. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Steriz's Fishing Station** reports very good fluking from buoy 17-23 on sandeels, kellie and squid biats with outgoing water best, mostly keeper fish. Lots of blues on artificials at the Hole at Buoy 17 all day long, fish up to 4 lbs. Some blue claws being taken in traps at the Hole off Cranberry Drive and also at Buoy 12.

SAYVILLE

Vinny at **Young Fishing Station** tells us something a little different, that being lots of blowfish being taken by his boats off Hecksher on the SE side of Nichols Point. Fluking is improving from Ocean Beach to Captree on sandeels, squid and live killies. Lee Musso, Mike and Ed Betz decked over 30 blowfish fishing off Barrett Beach. Tom and Lou Milunec got over 50 blowfish off Nichols Point on clam and squid. Some small blues hitting fluke baits off Point of Woods. Clay Hardman fishing Ocean Beach had a dozen fluke and 2 blues on squid on Saturday. Still a few weaks off Cherry Grove along with a few blues. For best results fish the flood tide on weekdays behind the dredges. They stir up the bottom.

WEST SAYVILLE

Jim at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports the weaks have slowed down, but Kevin Mulkehy of Seaford decked an 8 lb 4 oz weak at Buoy 5, while Ed Sweeney fooled a 10 lb 4 oz weak

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fishing the same area. Bob Hayes of Amityville copped himself an 8 lb weak, same area, all this was on purple jelly worms on an incoming tide. Fluking has improved as evidenced by John Stanton of Huntington who pulled a 6 lb fluke off Ocean Beach on a sand worm. Lots of short fluke around, so be sure to return these gently to the water. The remaining weakfish are big. A few blowfish have been picked up and that is improving.

BAY SHORE

Smokeys Bait and Tackle tells us that the fluke have been improving in size this week, with West Channel and the area west of the CG Staion working best on killies and sand eel and squid combos. A 5 lb fluke was taken on a red jelly worm on Friday at West Channel by Joe LaRosa. Weakfish are being taken at buoys 12 and 13 in early morning and evening hours on red or white jelly worms and sand worms. Some seabass and porgies at the Kismit Reef on clam or sand worm. Bluefish still good in the bay from 2-4 lbs on umbrellas and on white pussy cats. Ten to 12 lb blues in 100 - 130' of water on chum or on troll umbrellas. A few teen bass at Democratic Point on live bait at night.

The Casey Lee reports fluke fishing was good on Friday and Saturday, to the tune of 4-10 fish per man. Sunday's fishing was slower due to the high tides moving in the cold ocean water. Best fluking areas have been the Bayshore Channel and State Channel on killies, squid and sand eels.

CAPTREE

Charterboat **Yankee I** reports fluke fishing was fairly good in the State Channel off the Tobay/gilgo areas. Sunday was fair. Catches were on sand eels and squid and Capt. Richie expects fluking to pick up as the second run comes in. The draggers are starting to pick up more and more offshore, which is a good sign that the bay run is on its way. The boat is now booking bluefish charters for the July and August run.

Charterboat **Lady Ann** called to tell us that their fluking was slow on the weekend because of the very high tides which brought cold ocean water into the bay and inlet, but that by this weekend catches should be on the upswing again.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** called to say that the fluke fishing in the morning has been slow and sporadic, but there were a couple of good days during the week. On most days, anglers are taking between 4 and 6 fish a man. Gordon said that the afternoon weakfishing improved on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with most boats getting 15 to 25 big weakfish a trip, with a few small bluefish and fluke mixed in. The recent warm weather is the probable reason for this improvement and continued warm weather should see an upturn in the fluke fishing. The Captain said that he will continue his afternoon trips for weakfish as long the fishing is good, and then will shift over to fluke when called for. You can check the Captain's ad for his phone number and give him a call for further details.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** reported that the fluke fishing was very good on Friday, but became very tough for Saturday and Sunday. On Friday, two men had over 25 fish each. Best action has been around the change of tide in the State Channel, with all the usual baits producing. Not much in the inlet yet. Weakfishing has been very good on the afternoon trips, with the higest score 30 fish. The fish all range from 7 to 11 lbs., and the plastic worms are doing the number both drifting and casting. The boat will be in the shipyard this week, back for Friday PM weakfishing again.

Mike Peperno and Capt. John Bilitsky of the "Sea Ranger" with their 7 lb. 2 oz. fluke taken at the Robert Moses bridge while on a trip with the Shoreham-Wading River High School.

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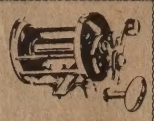

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BABYLON

Mario at **HI-Hook Fishing Station** tells us that on Saturday Bob and Wally of the Bronx and Brentwood respectively, boated 22 good fluke working between Dickerson's Channel and the EW Channel on squid, sandeels and jelly worms. They also threw back 15 midgets. All of the station's skiffs returned with at least 5-6 fluke and a few blues thrown in that walloped fluke baits. On Sunday Jack and Jimmy had 4 bay blues fishing off Ocean Beach on the inside on umbrellas. Mr. Nielson decked 7 fluke all keepers in the State Channel on sand eel/squid combos. Mario says that the fish are there and that all they require is the catching.

Charlies Fishing Station reports good fluking in the State Channel near the bait stations on squid and sand eel combos. Not too many short fish mixed in.

Dolores at **Augies Bait & Tackle** tells us that she had just weighed in at Monday morning a 36 lb 12 oz striped bass caught by Ed Olson of West Islip on live bunker at the last Mosses bridge. Clam chum is accounting for bass of mixed sizes of up to 22 lbs at the bridges and eels are accounting for fish in the box also. Blues are being caught offshore from 85' on out by chummers and trollers. The BTC had their bluefish contest on Sunday and the winners were: Dennis Bofinger, 13 lbs 4 ozs; Al Kaitch, 12 lb 9 ozs; Bob Scalata, 12 lbs 3 ozs; and Kami Scalata, 11 lbs 15 ozs. A lot of blues were caught 20 and up per boat. Fluking has been fair from the bridge to the Lighthouse and some were caught off the Babylon Town Dock on sand worms on Wednesday. BTC member John Moskowitz bagged a 196 lb great white shark Saturday fishing 150 degrees out of FI inlet in 130' of water.

Charterboat **Seabird** called to tell us that he is now in the water and ready to accept charters for fluke and bluefish and whatever else you might have in mind.

Sunday's trip to the HA Buoy on Capt. Joe Long's Freeport "Nite Owl," racked up 39 blues to 12 lbs. for Al Berko, Walt Spencer, Geo. Nichols, Reg Laite & Roger Skibenes. All on mackerel chunks.

LINDENHURST

The open boat **Sea Horse** tells us that fluking remains steady in the State Channel from the Draw bridge to Gilgo, catches averaging 3-5 keeper fluke per man. These are nice sized fish up to 3½ lbs, hitting on killie/squid strip combos. The Gilgo area has had the largest sizes.

Charlies Bait and Tackle reports that Dave Campo and Leo Lomingino of Lindenhurst boated 13 blues and 1 weakfish on Saturday fishing between Ocean Beach and the Lighthouse with umbrellas. A 37 lb bass was caught by Ed Storch of West Islip at the Hole near the Lighthouse on Saturday morning while drifting a sinking Rebel. That is really what you call being in the right place at the right time, Ed. Blackfish at the Kismit Reef on fiddlers. Fluke fair to good the whole length of the St Channel on killies, sand eels and squid. Flounders on worms at the Sore Thumb. Good bluefishing on the inside on everything and chopper blues in abundance from 100 feet on out.

The charterboat **Captain Bob Fischer** called in to report that fluking was fair to good this past week with the best being on Saturday with a group from North Shore Hospital. Bob was fishing mainly the State Channel around Gilgo. The pool winning fluke ran approximately 4 lbs. The boat has stoped the afternoon weakfish trips for this year and is now booking day and afternoon fluke trips.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells us that Lou Gyure and Carry Lee had nearly 100 blackfish fishing the Robert Mosses Bridge on Saturday with fiddler crabs, fish up to 4 lbs. Jonas weighed in 3 bass taken at the Wantagh Bridge taken on bucktail and pork rind, 27 lb 5 oz, 17 lbs 5 oz and 10 lbs 5 oz, at high water on Sunday, taken casting from the bridge by the Santiago Bros. of Lindenhurst. A striper weighing 17 lb 2 oz was taken in the surf at West End 2 by surfcaster Wayne Lieberg on a small Hopkins on Thursday. A buddy of his bagged a 40 lb striper on a small Hopkins the day before, so the bass fishing is definitely picking up beautifully. The bay blues have become a little scarse, but on the outside trolling umbrellas from 80' of water on out, chopper blues are being caught readily. Fluking is fairly good at the area of the Mosses bridge and all along the State Channel on killies and squid. Coat hangers and regular umbrellas are getting some bass in the State Channel. Red and purple colors are working best.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells us big bass are being caught from Tobay up to the Meadowbrook bridge with the largest that he weighed in being a 51 lb 8 oz lunker caught by Ed Geyer of Massapequa on a live eel. Ed is a member of Squadron Anglers. Jay Lev bagged a 38 lbr on a live eel also. Jay's fish is being mounted by **Fish Unlimited Taxidery**. Jerry Edlend took a 32 lb 10 oz striped bass while trolling in the State Channel Saturday morning with umbrellas with purple tubes. Jerry also got small bluefish. H He fished his rig 15-18' down. **Shakespeare** rep, Dick Mermon brought in several 5-7 lb stripers while chumming at the Second Wantagh with clam bellies and also nabbed a 17 lbr on Monday morning. The bass are really here, but it may be a short spring season for them, so you best do your best now. A lot of big blues in 80 - 130' of water, knocking hell out of shark baits. Smaller blues are being trolled in 15-30' of water closer in. Fluking has been fair in the bays. More results in the areas of Jones Inlet and Reynolds Channel on squid, killies and sand eels. Some blackfish at the Wrecks, rocks and bridges on fiddlers and a few weaks on red and purple jelly worms. One fluke was caught on a white jelly worm.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait & Tackle says the flukeing has been so so this past week, but expects it to pick up strong very shortly. Some fluke have been caught at Short Beach on worms. A few weakfish at night on sandworms at the Wantagh and Meadowbrook bridges. Some big bass at the Black Banks and in the State Channel off Tobay and Gilgo drifting bunker and eels or with clam chum. This seems to be an early morning, evening and night time affair. Lon says to pass on the word that he is getting a huge shipment of jelly worms in by the end of this week. Bluefish outside the inlet roughly 30 miles out, 170 degrees out of Jones. Acres of big blues are reported and loads are being caught. Seems like a great bluefish season coming up. These fish are also being trolled up on Lupo Baby Bunker Spoons. Umbrellas and Bananas are accounting for fish as well. An occassional blowfish is being caught in the bays.

Captain Eddies Fishing Station reports fluke and a lot of sand sharks mixed in taken by their skiffs drifting from four corners to the bridge with sand eels, killies and squid. These fish are in the 2-3 lb range. Small blues at the Second bridge wacking

fluke rigs and also on bounced Salty Dogs.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells us about George Zipper who zipped to c. of his secret bass chumming spots on Friday night and bellied up to an 11, 20 and 29 lb. stripers that were weighed in at Arthur Street Marina. Catch was made along the banks or under the bridges, George won't say exactly where. Fluking has improved in Reynold's Channel and Jones Inlet on sand eels and squid, while flounder can still be had on worms at the junction of Reynolds and Jones at buoy 15.

MERRICK

Scott at **Merrick Marine Supplies** reports a possible IGFA record for Ralph Votta of Levittown with a 10 lb 8 oz weakfish taken on a fly rod with 10# tippet at Lloyd's Neck using a saltwater streamer. Plenty of blues in the area of the Ha buoy. Al Scimeca, on his charterboat **Big Foot**, member of the Freeport Boatmen's Assoc., got his first bonito of the season on red and white trolled feathers coming back from a successful bluefish trip offshore. Blues are being trolled and chummed. Stripers are being chummed in the bay with small fish being taken at the bridges and banks in the state channel. Sharkers are being bedeviled (?) by chopper blues.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells of bass in the state channel to the east. Bob Smedley of Hicksville and Dennis Newman of Bellmore had 5 strtipers from 5-22 lbs on Saturday fishing state channel around Zacks Bay on clam chum. A few other boats were doing likewise in the same area. It's an early morning pass time. George Zipper had a few also fishing to the east of the State Channel using bellies. The end of the jetty has been producing some bass on live eels. A 35 lb mako caught by John Demino at the Mud Hole is being mounted by **Fish Unlimited Taxidermy** by Jimmy and the fish will be on display in the marina office. Fluke picked up in row boat alley, Ned's Creek, and the inlet. Fish are mixed sizes, but nothing over 4 lbs. Killy, squid combos are working best. Two to 3 lb bluefish are in close outside the jetty while 70' on out is producing man-eater blues. Saturday Jimmy weighed in a 16 lb 2 oz bluefish which did not read the reports and was caught in only 30' of water on an umbrella. Green tubes are working best.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★ BLUEFISH

FREEPORT

The Aloma II reports very good fluking Friday-Sunday and that he is working both Jones Inlet and Debs Inlet and that the bays and the ocean both have good distribution of fish. Friday's catch was 11-24 keeper fluke per man and the other days the count was 6-15 per man all on sand eels. Fish ran up to 5 lbs on Sunday. Paul says this looks like it's going to be a bonanza year.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports fluke being caught by its boats fishing Jones Inlet, Reynolds Channel and Swift Creek on squid, sand eel and killies. Fish are mixed sizes and the largest this week included a 4 lbr. Some bass at Jones Inlet for casters and private boats fishing small bunker and live baby blackfish. Good flounder catches still being made at the drain north of the Loop Bridge on worms.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** tells us that a few flounder are still being picked in Swift Creek on worms while some bass are being taken on bait at Jones Inlet west bar. Fluke are being taken in Sloop Channel in front of the CG Station. Ronnie tells us that the fishing pier at the South end of South Grove Street is now open and admission is free to all and that some fluke have been taken from the pier. This would seem to be a good spot for pier fishermen to investigate. Big bluefish in 135' of water destroying shark baits.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** tells of very good fluking over the weekend. Sunday on the **Blue Fin** saw the Double T Fishing Club boat 76 keeper fluke. Andy Young and Steve Kearney, Jr., had 9 keepers each. Mike Russo took the pool with a 3 lb 4 oz. This was all on sand eels and squid strips. On Saturday the **Blue Fin II** fished the bank of Tokyo for a total of 64 keepers. On Sunday Sy had the NY Power and Light from upstate. Felix Rivera was hi-hook with 17 keeper fluke. There were 105 keepers decked for the day. The boats fished the Jones Inlet area.

Charter boat **Jackpot** called to tell us that he had great bluefishing Friday and Saturday including a 5 lb bonito fishing SE of the BA with umbrellas. The blues were in the 8-12 lb range. On Sunday a 50 lb mako shark plus 30 blues between 10 and 15 lbs were fished up SE of the HA. This was in 150' of water on chum while sharking. Saturday's charter was for George Alexander and group.

Arthur Goldstein and Gary Bergman with some of the bluefish up to 12 lbs. and flounder up to 2 lbs., taken aboard the charter boat "Sea Hawk" with Capt. D. Kanyuk.

Sunday's charter was for Steve Polisar and gang.

Charterboat **Nite Owl** Captain Joe Long called to say that on Saturday he had out Dave Robinson and party and they had a 60 lb brown shark along with a load of bluefish taken in the chum slick fishing south of the Ha in 240' of water. On Sunday Vic Lanzone of New Hyde Park and party were placed above one of Joe's pet wrecks where they caught cod and pollack to 27 lbs along with 20 bluefish in the 10 lb class, everything was on bait except for the pollack which wanted Ava 27's.

Captain Dennis of the charterboat **Sea Hawk** called to tell us that Friday's charter for Grumbacher and Co. of Long Beach enjoyed good fluking in the AM at the inlet with a 50% keeper ratio and then had some good flounder action at the Meadowbrook at the slack. The fluke hit squid and sand eel combos and the flounders wanted clam. They had 3 flounder weighing over 3 lbs each and one was over 17 inches long. Saturday's charter for Art Goldstein

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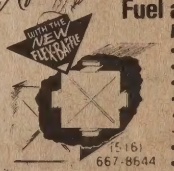

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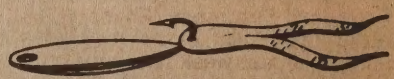

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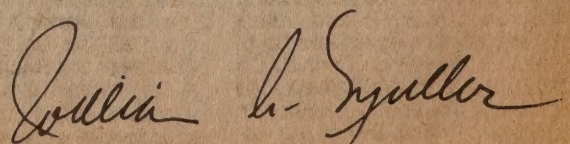
Editor's Head: S.O.S. BASS

(Continued from page 4.)

suggested in Maryland at one point.

We remind our readers that Fred Schwab is the New York State representative to the striped bass coastal management effort currently under way. We made an appeal several weeks ago that interested readers should send their suggestions and comments to L.I.F. about striped bass coastal management and that we would forward them to Mr. Schwab. To date, only a few responses have come in. We urge all of you who have ideas about striped bass management to take a few minutes and jot down your thoughts so that Fred can have information, ideas, and support to take to the next meeting later this month. The time is now for you to make your thoughts known. Please send them to us today. Thanks for your help.



w fluke and flounder going to the x but a little slower than on Friday. nday's charter for Jackson Mott d Co. of Conn. saw good fluking in e inlet in the am on sand eels and uid while in the afternoon it was unders on clam for another good tch at the Meadowbrook.

Charyterboat **Shalidon** called to tell that he has started to sail after ving had John Vidas, custom boat ilders on Woodclef Canal fully iclose the boat's flybridge in wood d glass and that the boat has been oroughly prettied up for the new ason. On Friday Harry Dreckman of nn. and party fished 10 miles SW of e HA buoy taking 25 big blues from -15 lbs. On Saturday Lon Blank of ceanside and party bagged 15 opper blues chumming and trolling mi south of the Ha. Eleven yr old nifer Black had a 14 lbr.

The Captain Lou II reports pretty od fluking all week long and the eekend was good also. Sunday saw keepers for Henry Rothman of East leadow as the back bays were orked. Capt. Mike says that the fish ave moved into the back bays now om the inlet and its environs. atches are being made on killies, nd eels and squid. The boat will be arting afternoon fluke trips which ill be running from 4:30 PM until ark. Of course this is in addition to ie regular morning trip.

Charter boat **Acme II** called on Vednesday to tell us that the fluking ad been great that day on the ebb rifting back and forth from buoy 2-4, sh up to 4 lbs. Mike Rollo of NYC ad 24 keeper fluke on sand eels and quid.

Freeport Boatmens Association eports that their boats that went luking this past week had very good atches in the inlet on both tides on killies, sand eels and squid. On Friday aturday, and Sunday the **Nite Owl II** ad very good bluefishing action 0-25 miles off the beach with a lot of ish going 10-12 lbs and a scattering f bonito. The **Big Foot** also had blues nd bonito. The **Corsair** fished Cholera for seabass and then ling at uoy 4. Dockmaster Bob Kay says it ooks like a great bluefish year coming p.

Super night bluefishing says the kipper on the **Capt. Al**, talking about heir Friday, Saturday and Sunday ight bluefish trips. Fares had over 50 big blues each night, up to about 2 lbs. Danny Wong from Massapequa had 21 blues Saturday ight. The day fishing for seabass, lacks and ling has been fair.

Charterboat **Apus** called to say that he Fresh Pond Fishing Club enjoyed very good blackfish charter at the Meadowbrook bridge on Thursday. Blacks went up to 4½ lbs on fiddlers. On Friday Jack Maeglio and Julius Zaretsky bagged 33 keeper fluke up to 1½ lbs fishing Reynolds Channel. On Saturday, Steve Britt and Steve Leige ook 2 brown shark and 21 bluefish to 4 lbs fishing 14 miles SW of the HA uoy. On Sunday the Goldstein family had fair fluking in Jones Inlet.

The Capt. Hall reports good fluke fishing all week in the back creeks and in Jones Inlet. On Saturday, the pool fish ran over 3 lbs. and on Sunday, a 6 lb. fluke took the pool. High hook has been averaging in the teens and these flatties are taking squid and sand eels.

The Miss Freeport reports that on Thursday and Friday his half-day morning and afternoon trips did very good. On Friday, Joe Roman of Long Island City took the pool with a 3½ lb. fluke which was part of his catch of 9 fish. On Saturday, a charter from Grant's Hardware in West Nyack did very well with a high hook of 11 fluke. On Sunday, the morning and afternoon fluke fishing was fair. These fish are taking sand eels and squid and are being taken in Reynold's Channel, Jones Inlet and in the back bays.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that George Tanner, Walter Grecky and son Kenneth, trolled for bass from 8 to 25 lbs., on umbrella rigs at the Tin Can Grounds. Flounder activity has been good at buoy 15 and at the Meadow Brook Bridge. Fluke fishing has been good at Reynold's Channel, Jones Inlet and trolling the flats. There have also been some sea bass taken in these areas. Stripers to 30 lbs. are being taken at the Meadow Brook Bridge, Wantagh and at Malibu.

Frank at **Doxsee Sea Clam** has no details due to the fact that the bass chummers don't talk too much but tells us that they have been buying a lot of bellies lately so that he knows almost for sure that bass are being taken at the local bridges and in the State Channel.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmans Bait and Tackle reports the hottest news are the bluefish, 180 degrees out of Jones in 90' of water where they have been erupting with chummers and trollers digging in, fish 7-10 lbs and also casting, jigging and squidding to these fish. On Sunday from Cholera to 25 mi out a giant body of blues moved in, from 5-10 lb fish, and have been feeding on squid. These fish as of Monday were in 80' of water on out. Fluking is definitely on the increase in Jones Inlet despite a 50% of midgets to keepers. Debs has been very good also, maybe twice as good as Jones on squid, sand eels or squid spearing combos. An 18 lb striper was taken in the Rockaway surf on a Gibbs pencil popper. Democrat Point is producing bass to live eel fishermen from the beach. Charlie now has eels in stock. Eels are working particularly well under all the bridges especially the Meadowbrook Bridge this past week, fish of mixed sizes.

Steve Weitzen and Joe Masone on Saturday fished shark 3 mi south of

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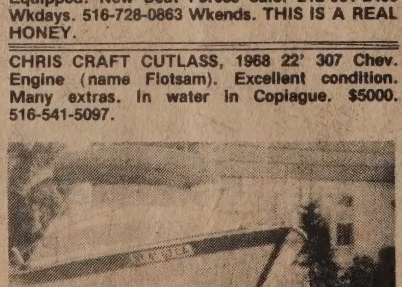

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the Ha and had one blue shark of about 75 lbs and 3 brown shark up to 50 lbs each and 10 bluefish up to 12 lbs. The blues were hitting the bait in the slick. A 500 lb (estimated) sunfish kept them company all day.

The Commodore reports that from Thursday on, the fluke fishing has been very good. On Saturday, Max Gronstein was high hook with 22 fluke and Dominic Gebia took the pool with a six pounder. On Sunday, John Trost was high hook with 26 nice sized fluke. The boat totaled 200 keepers for Sunday. The fishing is being done in Reynold's Channel and in East Rockaway Inlet on spearing and sand eels. Action is good on both tides.

LONG BEACH

Frank Hunter, alias Hotdog Seeker, at **Long Beach Sports Marina** reports that all their skiffs have been bringing fluke back fishing the Reynold's Channel area on killie/squid combos. Rich Maurer on Saturday, had a 7 lb. mini doormat, while Bernie and Jimmy on their boat Odd Couple, brought back 48 good keepers on Sun., fishing Reynold's channel towards the bridge with killies and squid. Bennie and Allan Wishnoff had 20 fluke fishing Reynold's Channel with spearing and squid.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station reports great fluke fishing in East Rockaway Inlet and in Reynold's Channel. Fish averaging 3 to 3½ lbs., are taking sand eels, squid, spearing, and killies. Blackfishing has been good in the rocky areas and at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. These fish are running from 2 to 3 lb., and are taking fiddlers. Striped bass up to 20 lbs. are being taken on umbrellas at Atlantic Beach and also at the Atlantic Beach Bridge on live bunker.

JAMAICA BAY

T & G Tackle reports that the North Channel Bridge at Cross Bay Blvd.

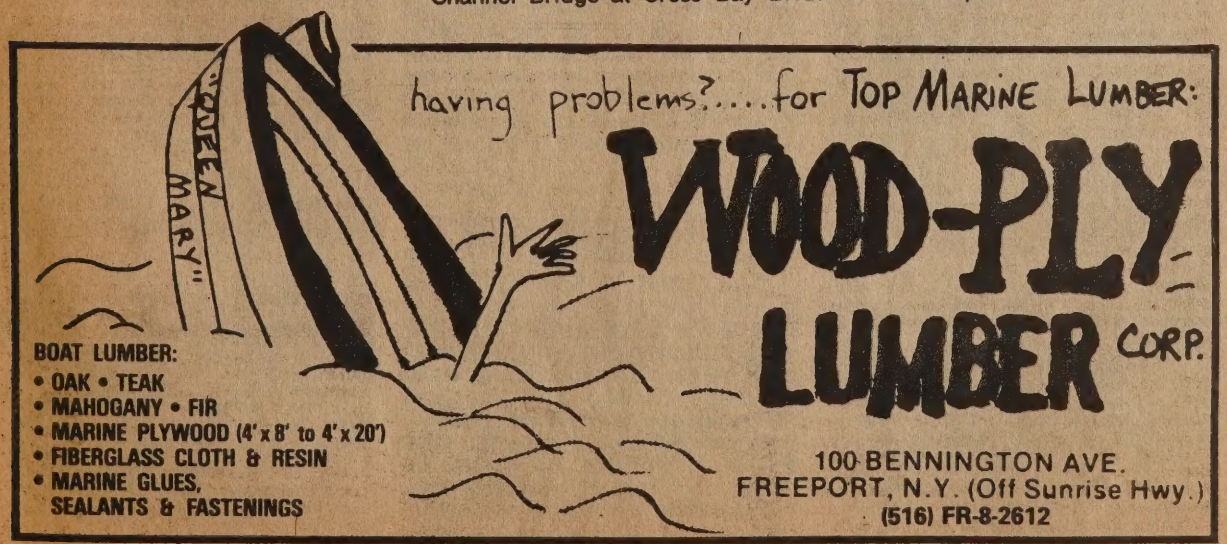
Pictured are Jim McGuire, Bill Durkin, Sr., Bill Durkin, Jr., and Pete Tuckey with 250 lbs. of big bluefish running between 12 and 14 lbs., taken at Norton's Point on Lupo Baby Bunker Spoons aboard the "Kim."

has been producing great bluefish action in the evenings, best on the high. Try fishing bottom with either whole or chunked bunker or big smelts.

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle reports that bluefish up to 8 lbs. are taking bunker strips off of the North Channel Bridge. Blackfish averaging 4 lbs. are being taken at the North Channel Bridge on fiddler crabs. Rockaway Inlet and the Marine Parkway Bridge are producing nice sized fluke on sand eels.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Stella Maris Bait and Tackle partner Joe Lauro reports good catches of fluke off Reese Park on sand eels and squid about 200 yds off the beach with a 7 lb 8 oz mini-doormat taken this past week. Blacks at the Marine Pkwy Bridge and wrecks and rocks on fiddlers and green crabs. Big bluefish at Nortons Pt. on deep-trolled umbrellas at buoy 18, darker colors best. Seabass mixed with the blackfish and those rocky areas on squid.



The **Dorothy B** reports that on Saturday the fishing was slow, but fishing improved on Sunday in Debs Inlet. Average catches of 10 fluke per person were taken on sand eels and pool fish averaged about 3 lbs.

The **New Zephyr** reports that on Saturday blackfish, ling and sea bass were taken on wrecks along Seabright and Long Branch. Catches of 15 to 25 blackfish per person were taken, along with half pail of sea bass and a few ling. On Sunday, sea bass fishing was good and a full 5 gal. pail was common.

The new **Elsie K III** reports good fluke fishing in local channels. Catches have been averaging 5 to 8 fluke per person were taken on sand eels. On Sunday, Bill Haros took the pool with a 6 lb. fluke.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that bass action has been good at Cliff Street and Penny Beach. Kevin Koncelik took four nice bass from 18 to 34 lbs. on a Gibb's Darter. Most of the fish are running in the teens and are also taking Atom or Danny Swimmers. This fishing is being done at night on the last three hours of the outgoing tide. Bluefish can be found from South Beach to Princess Bay. The fishing has slowed from previous weeks, bunker is the best bet but fish are also being taken on Danny swimmers or Atom plugs. Boaters are taking bluefish in Princess Bay on Bingle Lancers and gorilla rigs. These fish are running in two schools; one of 3-5 lbs., and the other from 8-12 lbs. Fluke fishing has been good from buoy 4-Annadale to the Princess Bay Trademark. These fish are averaging 14-18 inches and have run up to 4½ lbs., and are taking squid and sand eel combos.

Benny Crawford and James Wright with 41 porgies up to 3 lbs. 4 oz. and five weakfish up to 8 lbs. taken between buoys 17 and 18. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station.

PECONICS & GARDINERS

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

GREENPORT

A. P. White Bait Shop reports that porgies up to 3½ lbs. are being taken on the east side of Gardiner's Island on worms and clams. Weakfish can be found in the bay and are taking squid, Mr. Twisters, salty dogs, and Jelly Worms. These fish are averaging 8 lbs. Bass fishing has been good in Plum Gut with fish from 20-25 lbs., hitting white or yellow bucktails. The blackfishing from Orient to Greenport has been good and surf casters are having a ball with these bottom fish. Fluke fishing has started up at Gardiner's Island, with fish from 4-5 lbs., taking sand eels, shiners and squid.

Capt. George Porter of the **Brand X** had 36 weakfish on Saturday night, which officially ends his weakfishing for now. A real tiderunner was taken on Friday by John Mazzer of Pittsburgh with a 15 pound plus weak. Wow! The weekend saw the porgy action pretty good, along with catches of blacks and flounder. The porgies re are mostly big and running to 3 lbs., on clam and worm. The boat, as you read this, will have switched to porgy fishing 8 AM daily. George says there is a good mixture of other species also, including flounder up to 3 lbs.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported a lot of boats out over the weekend, but not many fish. There were some porgies by buoy 17 and the South Ferry. Fishing was better than the week before, but it's still not good. Some weaks taken, but numbers were down from the previous weekend. That's par for this time of year. A few fluke over by the Brickyards. There's 2-4 lb. blues at Jessup's, but they are not hitting very well.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that fishing has been slower than usual. A few weakfish to 8 lbs. are being taken from the Nassau Point area. Porgies can be found at buoys 18 and 25, with the larger fish at buoy 25. Some good catches have come in, but not everyone is making good catches. Bluefish up to 4 lbs. are taking Rag Mops and surgical tubes trolling on the west side of Robin's Island.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reported some boats came in with no porgies, while other boats had 100 or better. The mistake a lot made was to ride around instead of staying in one spot and try to chum the fish up. Bluefish are out in the Sound in good numbers, moving around quite a bit. At times they have been up on top. Bass fishing along the Sound slowed down to a crawl, and a slow one at that. Blackfishing is good in all the rocky areas.

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports that the best action this week has been with the bluefish. On Saturday, this fishing was excellent, with 4-7 lb. bluefish with an occasional 9 lber. being taken on umbrella rigs at buoys 9 and 11 and at the Middle Grounds. On Sunday, the fish moved to buoy 5 at Roanoke, where nice sized fish were taken on umbrellas rigs and popping plugs. Porgie fishing is on the increase along the local beaches. Blackfishing has slowed a bit, but theses fish are still plentiful in the rocky areas and can be taken on fiddlers. Bluefish have been hitting the beaches in the early evening from Tide's Beach to Hagerman's Landing.

NOYAC

Specks Bait & Tackle reports porgies are building with one rental boat bagging 70 of these little battlers at buoy 18 on mussel and worm baits. Some 18-20 lb stripers are being taken on the flood on sandworms at the beach east of the Shinnicock Canal and also at the S. Ferry slip on eels. The bass are finally coming in. Bluefish in Peconic up to 10 lbs, but mostly are smaller fish 4-5 lbs being taken on tin and umbrellas. Fluke are being taken in Shinnicock Bay and the action will be building as the water warms up. Catches being made on squid and sand eels.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** tells that porgies good and building at Kelley's Point and Cedar Point. Fish from 1½ to 2 lbs on mussel. Blues in at the ferry from 2-10 lbs on umbrellas and bucktail with a few weakfish thrown in for good measure.

BOTTOM FLOATER WEEDLESS HOOK

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ BLUEFISH

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reported the blues and weaks were slow over the weekend which disappointed a lot of people. The fish popped back in on Monday morning. There's too much bait out there for the fish to leave. Plenty of porgies showing at Rocky Point. Blackfish are good off Old Field Point by the buoy. Last week a few fluke were taken at different spots.

The Port Jeff Ace tells of loads of porgies with blacks and weaks mixed in around buoy 9. This is all on worms and skimmers with lots of mussel chum. They are starting to see the humpback porgies on the nighttime trips.

Charter Boat **Albatross** tells us they took their first night trolling charter south of Settler's Light and loaded up on weaks and blues. Dave Cohen of Port Jeff was high hook with 6 blues and 9 weaks.

The Betty W reports excellent porgy fishing early in the week on clam and worm. On Thursday, the boat swung over to weaks and blues and 11 fares took 72 weaks up to 11¾ lbs., and some blues to 7 lbs. Sat. saw 28 anglers take buckets of porgies. Joe Trojanski of Centerach was high hook with 90 fish.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports very good weakfish and bluefish action over the weekend. On Saturday, Joe Yesalonis of Commack had 9 weakfish to 8¼ lbs., and 16 bluefish to 8 lbs., fish with white

The Spindle and Goodman families with a fine catch of weakfish taken on Tri-Fin sand eel and Diamond jigs off of the Mt. Misery Shoals. Photo courtesy of Mae's Way Fishing Station.

Sekora rigs in 20-30 ft. of water off Mackamah Beach. Also on Saturday, Dave Spindel| took 12 weakfish to 11 lbs. and one blue fishing with Diamond jigs and Tri-Fin sand eel jigs off of Crane's Neck. Charlie Savvas took 175 porgies on skimmer clams fishing off the Mansion. As this report was being made, Joe Lonegro brought in a 47¼ lb. striped bass taken off of Crane's Neck on a Bingle swimmer.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reported bluefish were taken in good numbers last week trolling rigs and tubes on a east to west, then west to east pattern just a little out from can #13. All week long blues and weaks were in closer to shore where surfcasters stood a chance at getting them Friday night was a good one for the beach fishermen. Jelly Worms and Alou Eels are the hot items for the weaks. Fred Piercey trolled up a 10 lb. weak on yellow bucktail and pork rind off Callahan's. The best bet for blacks is Target Rock. For porgies try about 3/4s of a mile off Crab Meadow Beach. There's a school of half pound blues in the hot water at Lilco.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports good striped bass activity in Cold Spring Harbor at the Causeway, Whitewood Point, and at the Seawanakee Yacht Club. Fish up to 22 lbs. are being taken at night on worms and on Rebels and poppers at dawn and dusk. Weakfish and blues have been mixed in with these bass. James Felton of Huntington took a 4 lb. sea bass in the mouth of Cold Spring Harbor on squid. Bob Nurnberger took a 22 lb. striped bass on a Rebel in Cold Spring Harbor. A mixed bag of bass, weaks and blues can be found at Lloyd's Point. Blackfishing has been good at buoy 13-Eaton's Neck and off of Ashrocken Beach.

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** tells us that on Sunday he had one of the greatest fishing days of the year. Literally hundreds of fish were caught, flounder and blacks, fishing off Eaton's Neck CG station area and to the east. Stephan Weissburger of Huntington took the pool with a 7½ lb. black, taken on fiddler crab. Capt. Don would like to remind everybody of his half-day charters of Wed., Sat., and Sun., between 8-12. Wednesday run is doing nicely. Look for the summer program to be advertised in The Fisherman.

Four Winds Tackle Shop reported some good fishing last week for small blues and weaks mixed in with them. Trolling umbrellas at buoy 13 or casting lures at Diamond Point or Callahan's Beach produced. A few bass taken, including a 24 pounder on trolled worms by Karl Fusaro. Porgies are decent size but no numbers. Best bet is the east bar off Eaton's. No fluke reports beyond a stray or two.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ BLACKFISH

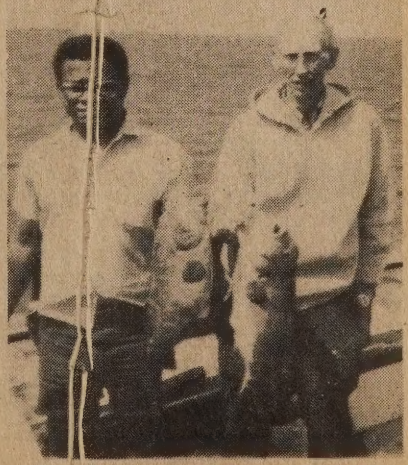
BAYVILLE

Norm's Bait and Tackle reports that porgy fishing has been good off of the Center Island Reef. Weakfish from 5 to 7 lbs. are taking worms off of Lloyd's Neck. Blackfish from 3½ to 5 lbs., are taking fiddlers, worms and clams at Whitewood Point, Center Island Reef and at the Bayville Bridge. Nice sized fluke are taking sand eels and squid off of Lloyd's Neck.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Tackle Shop reported there were mackerel taken over the weeken between the south end of Hart's Island and Stepping Stone Light. Jack figured there has to be something there keeping the macks in the corner. Blackfish are still with us in good numbers, but not many porgies around. The City Island boats had good catches last Monday and Tuesday, but the fish disappeared since then. Some bass at Rodman's Neck, but no sign of any blues. Jack heard of a couple weaks, but figured those came way up at Matinecock.

The Ebb Tide reports they are fishing Oyster Bay, Center Island and Lloyd's Neck and are catching blackfish up to 8 lbs., on fiddlers and clams, a lot of flounder on worm and clam. The porgies are slow in coming, but the ones caught are good size, on sand worms.



K. Reid and J. Adams shared the pool with 6 lb. blackfish caught aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide."

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